

DOCKET NO. 173

NUMBER	TERM	YEAR
350	November	1960

In Re: MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR

D. EDWARD CHAPLIN, ESQ.

VERSUS

MEMORIAL TO D. EDWARD CHAPLIN

D. Edward Chaplin was a member of the Clearfield County Bar Association and was born in Houtzdale on December 5, 1900, a son of D. Edward Chaplin and Kathern (Gleason) Chaplin, both now deceased. His early schooling was at Houtzdale's St. Lawrence Catholic School. Later he attended the Clearfield High School, where he graduated in 1919. After that he went to Notre Dame University for a year and then returned to enter Dickinson Law School, from which school he graduated in 1925 and was admitted to the Clearfield Bar in 1927. He began his law practice with the Honorable J. Mitchell Chase, Esquire, who was also Congressman from this district, and in 1935, formed a partnership with John C. Arnold, under the name of Arnold & Chaplin, a partnership which lasted until 1945. This partnership was later enlarged in 1940 by the inclusion of Dan P. Arnold. In 1945 John C. Arnold was appointed to the Superior Court of the state of Pennsylvania and later to the State Supreme Court, and the partnership was continued under the name of Chaplin & Arnold, which included D. Edward Chaplin and Dan P. Arnold and continued from 1945 until the time of the death of Eddie Chaplin on September 7, 1960.

Ed Chaplin was a steady, conscientious and a meticulous craftsman in the law, and the work that he turned out had to be as perfect as he could make it; and although he had been in poor health for a number of years, he still continued his active practice — getting to the office every day at regular hours and continuing until closing time despite the many times when it must have been a tremendous ordeal for him.

He was married on June 12, 1937, to Barbara Usher, who survives him. He is survived by four children: D. Edward Chaplin, Jr., who is a graduate of Notre Dame and is now studying law at Dickinson College; Andrew, who is a junior at the University of Notre Dame; John, who is studying for the priesthood in the Order of the Holy Cross at Notre Dame University; and Mary, who is a junior at Saint Francis High School at Clearfield.

He also leaves two brothers and two sisters; Andrew of Malvern, Pennsylvania, Margaret, New York City; William, Johnstown, Pennsylvania; and Marcella, New York City.

He was intensely interested in the welfare of his children, planning for their future and most anxious to see that they secured a college education. He was devoted to his family and his home.

He was a member of St. Francis Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, B. P. O. Elks Lodge 540 of Clearfield and Sigma Alpha Epsilon College Fraternity.

He was an able and conscientious lawyer. He was a careful draftsman and an able and exact man in the drawing of contracts and agreements. His advice in legal matters was sought after.

His specialty was municipal government law. During his 35 years of practice, he had served as solicitor for several Boroughs and townships in the county, including Clearfield and Curwensville Boroughs. At the time of his death, his firm was the solicitor of the Clearfield and Curwensville Municipal Authorities and Mr. Chaplin played a major role in the legal work involved in projects undertaken by both Authorities.

He was a former member of the Executive Committee of the Pennsylvania State Borough Association, and he had served as solicitor for the Clearfield County Controller during his legal career. He also served as a Federal Referee in Bankruptcy from 1929 until 1935.

Ed Chaplin had a keen sense of humor. He always enlivened any gathering at which he was present by his shafts of kindly wit. He was sought after because of the zest he added to any gathering.

The Bar Association desires to express our highest regard and appreciation in which we held Ed Chaplin and to record the sense of loss that we feel in his passing. We want

to record these thoughts and to express them for the benefit of the family and the public so that it may be inscribed in the memory and on the records that he was truly a friend and a very able and honorable practitioner of the law.

I now respectfully move that this Memorial be adopted by the Bar Association of Clearfield County, and that it be spread upon the records of the County of Clearfield, and that certified copies thereof be furnished to his wife and members of the family of D. Edward Chaplin.

Respectfully submitted,


Edward T. Kelley
Edward T. Kelley


F. Cortez Bell
F. Cortez Bell


James K. Nevling
James K. Nevling

In re:

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

D. EDWARD KELLEY

EDWARD T. KELLEY

ATTORNEY AT LAW
CLEARFIELD, PA.

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF CLEARFIELD COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

In re: : #350 Nov. 1960
: Miscellaneous Docket, Page
:
MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR : December 29, 1960.
: In Open Court.
D. EDWARD CHAPLIN, ESQ. : 27 Members of the Bar Association
: Present.

BY JUDGE PENTZ:

At this time the Bar Association will hold its Memorial meeting in respect to D. Edward Chaplin, a late member of the Bar of this County. The meeting will now be turned over to the president of the Bar Association, Mr. Clarence Kramer.

BY CLARENCE KRAMER:

Your Honor, the Committee to prepare the Memorial, consists of Edward T. Kelley, F. Cortez Bell, Sr., and James K. Nevling. The Bar is now ready to hear the Committee's report.

BY EDWARD T. KELLEY:

If it please the Court.

BY JUDGE PENTZ:

Mr. Kelley.

BY MR. KELLEY:

Members of the family of D. Edward Chaplin, and the Bar Association:

(Mr. Kelley reads the attached Memorial)

I so move.

BY MR. KRAMER:

Have we any further remarks?

BY JAMES K. NEVLING:

I wish to second the motion.

BY MR. KRAMER:

Any remarks by any members of the Bar before we put the motion.

BY MR. NEVLING:

If the Court please, President Kramer, and members of the family of D. Edward Chaplin, and friends, as we gather here to honor our friend, Ed Chaplin, each of us, I think, reaches back into his own memory, and perhaps to each of us the recollection of him is a little different.

My own association with Ed Chaplin began, I think in 1926, when I was a Freshman in college, and he was kind enough to invite me to attend an evening of entertainment at his Fraternity; and then later, of course, when I was admitted to the Bar in 1934, I think at that time Ed was Referee in Bankruptcy, and he, on many occasions, gave appointments to the younger members of the Bar, in what was a depressed economic time; and I am sure we all felt he was of a very kindly disposition then. I should like to remark in this memorial to him, that it was that kindness of Eddie's that characterized his life at the Bar. I think too, that in conferences, and as a lawyer, his voice was the cool voice of reason which many times straightened out and brought to mutual conclusions, negotiations in cases in which he was involved.

I should like to say that I share in the sense of loss that all of us have. We think of Eddie as a man who was kind, who was intelligent, who was gentle with others.

BY MR. KRAMER:

Thank you. Any further remarks?

BY CARL A. BELIN:

Your Honor, Mrs. Chaplin, members of the family, and friends, I knew Eddie very well and I always thought it was very refreshing to know of his high integrity and honor. His word wasn't something that a selfish interest would change the next day. That was something Eddie Chaplin didn't do; and I hope that the life of Eddie Chaplin will be an example to the younger attorneys to follow because of that high type example of integrity and honor. I miss Eddie, and will miss him mostly because of friendship. I think Mr. Kelley said about his wonderful sense of humor; and I will tell you, to see Eddie with his health leaving him, and to see his sense of humor, would make us somewhat ashamed not to feel good in his presence. I think the main thing about Eddie was he was a wonderful lawyer, but he was a wonderful human being with it.

BY MR. KRAMER:

Thank you Mr. Belin.

BY PAUL SILBERBLATT:

Judge Pentz, Mr. Kramer, and the Chaplin family, I am certain if my father was with us today, he would have a few remarks to make; but in his absence, I would like to say a few words.

I am not sure when my father first knew Mr. Chaplin, but it was sometime in 1927 or 1928, when my father, after a very deep personal loss to him, roomed with Eddie Chaplin in an apartment on Reed Street, I believe, that Mr. Chaplin's aunt had. I have often heard my father talk about Aunt Alice, and I know in talking to my father, he always had the highest regard for Mr. Chaplin, and he recalls with fond memory, the close association the two of

them had as young attorneys at the Bar; and I found after I started to practice, and got to know Mr. Chaplin a little better, I always felt he was so kind to me and so very helpful in so many ways, due to the close association that my father and Eddie Chaplin had.

I always enjoyed walking down West First Street and seeing Eddie sit on the front porch, and as sick as he was, a hand would always go up and he would wave to me as I walked by. Those are things I will never forget; and I am certain my father has even deeper fond memories of Eddie Chaplin.

BY MR. KRAMER:

Thank you. Any further remarks?

BY JOHN SCOLLINS:

Mr. Kramer.

BY MR. KRAMER:

Mr. Scollins.

BY MR. SCOLLINS:

Judge Pentz, members of the Chaplin family, there is little I could add to what has been said here; but I think I knew Edward Chaplin longer than anyone in this Court room. He was a native of Houtzdale, a son of Daniel Edward Chaplin and Katherine M. Chaplin, and grew into manhood in Houtzdale. The relationship that existed between us was very close, in our two families. It was thought many times that we were related, but there was no blood relationship, or marriage relationship, between us in any sense. Edward graduated here in Clearfield, was admitted to the Bar, and it was about the time that Dr. Cowdrick passed away, that it was developed that he had diabetes, and he lived with that, never to complain.

In all my weekly experience with him, I never heard him complain of any pain and suffering. that he must have endured.

As has been said here, he was kind, he was witty, he was a gentleman. In all my experience with him, I never heard him utter a curse word. His language was that of a gentleman and a scholar, and as has been said here, he was a credit to the legal profession.

I knew the background of his family, and his father, and his father's side. He was a descendent of the Flynns. The lawyers here know in passing over titles, the names of Patrick, Anthony and James Flynn appear regularly. That's on his father's side. On his mother's side, she was a sister of James A. Gleason, the father of James A. Gleason, Jr. The grandfather was a merchant, came from up at Dudleyville in to Brisbin in the early years of the opening of that coal field, and with him and the family, they brought my mother, who was nursemaid to the family, and a mother to the children; and we have always kept that close relationship; and it is a personal grief that I suffer in his demise. I always think of him, as the poet said,

The lives of such men oft remind us
That we should live a life sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

BY MR. KRAMER:

Thank you, John. Any further remarks?

BY JUDGE PENTZ:

Mr. Kramer, and Mrs. Chaplin and family, I have nothing to add to what has been expressed in the Resolution, and by the other

members of the Bar, except that I do feel that I should express a feeling of a double loss, not only of a true, genuine friend, but the Bar Association as a whole has lost an outstanding man, of outstanding character.

I have known Eddie Chaplin from the days as a student of law here in this County, and learned to know him, and learned to like him. Those things concerning his personality were previously expressed, I will not reiterate; but he was a man of integrity in all respects, not only in money matters, but in his friendships, the position he took on matters involving friends. He was a man who would stay with his friend through thick and thin, not for financial reasons, and not for popularity purposes, but because of his integrity and sincerity. He was that way in legal matters. He was a man of sufficient integrity to admit he was wrong, and to tell his client he was wrong, regardless of what the effect might be.

I think the Bar Association has lost a leader, quiet as he was, but nevertheless a leader in those things which make the profession and practice of law a thing of honor and distinction; and one great impression he has left upon the Bar Association is that high standard of integrity, at the same time with a very genuine and genial personality, and a marvelous sense of humor that really helped to intensify his integrity, and his standards of what was right, and proper, and honorable. I feel a very distinct personal loss, and I also think that the Bar Association has lost an outstanding man, of outstanding character.

BY MR. KRAMER:

Thank you, Judge Pentz.

Are there any further remarks from the members of the Bar? (Pause). If not, by leave of Court, I will add a remark to the members of the Bar and Chaplin family. Contrary to my practice, I have reduced to writing what I intend to say, due to the rush of the Holiday Season, to be sure I expressed my thoughts as they are intended; and though I may repeat to some extent what has been contained in the Memorial, I will follow my prepared notes.

D. Edward Chaplin died at the age of 59 years on the 7th day of September 1960, a respected and worthy member of this Bar, and after an active practice of the law of more than thirty years. Ed was a type of man who interested himself in two principal objectives, his home and his profession, and these absorbed his time and his energy above any other activities in which he engaged himself. Although during much of his career he was on the fringe of political activity, having successively two partners who were actively interested and engaged in political life, yet Ed never permitted himself to be drawn to the malestrom of political contest and strife. He never sought elective office yet he was interested in all public problems and devoted a substantial part of his professional life to the service of the public through representing municipal governments and authorities.

His first partner in the practice of law and with whom he aligned himself promptly upon his coming to Clearfield, was J. Mitchell Chase, who served three terms in Congress as a representative of this District. In this manner Ed was brought into

active contact with all the political affairs not only of the County but of the entire Congressional District. Yet he held aloof from the active seeking of elective honors for himself.

His second partnership was with John C. Arnold, the late Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. As Mr. Arnold's partner, Ed observed closely John Arnold's campaign first for the Superior Court and later for the position of Justice of the Supreme Court of the State.

From the time of Mr. Arnold's accession to the Superior Court until a few years ago, Ed was solicitor for the Borough of Clearfield and was also solicitor for the Borough of Curwensville until his death. Since the beginning of the Clearfield Water Authority he had been counsel for it, and represented Irvona Borough in the institution of the Water Authority in that area. Thus it was obvious that in his professional career he served the public widely and through the various forms of municipal governments and organizations.

Ed was a careful lawyer, exact in his preparation of papers and the planning of any legal steps to be taken by his clients, whether public or private. He had a deep understanding not only of the objective to be reached, but of the means of reaching that objective through the guidance of his client and preparation of legal papers.

D. Edward Chaplin had a personal presence that was impressive and likeable. In manner he was always courteous and gracious, and this was not the result of mere cultivated civility but arose from his disposition of heart. He was inherently kind and courteous, genial and pleasant to deal with. During his years of practice of law I received as many favors from him, all graciously conferred, as from any other member of the Bar. And if he borrowed a brief, book or abstract-of-title, he was always prompt and meticulous in the return of it, as well as to reciprocate in kind to the utmost, according to the facilities of his office. It was a great pleasure to receive from and bestow upon him any favors in which I or my office could cooperate.

He died at a comparatively early age, before much of the work he contemplated had been performed, but to the extent to which he had performed his work, it was well and ably done. The Bar Association and its members greatly liked Ed Chaplin, and it is my hope that I may so guide the course of my conduct in the years before me that when my work ceases I will be entitled to the kind remembrance of those who follow me, just as Ed did attain and will enjoy the kind remembrance of us who still continue the practice of the law.

Are there any other remarks before I put the motion to vote? (Pause). If not, all those in favor that the motion be spread upon the record and certified copies sent to the family, give their consent by saying "I".

ALL MEMBERS OF THE BAR:

I.

BY MR. KRAMER:

Opposed?

(None)

BY JUDGE PENTZ:

I will order that the Resolution presented, and the remarks all counsel made at this meeting, be transcribed and made a part of the record of the proceedings in memory of D. Edward Chaplin, Esquire. There being nothing further, the meeting will adjourn.

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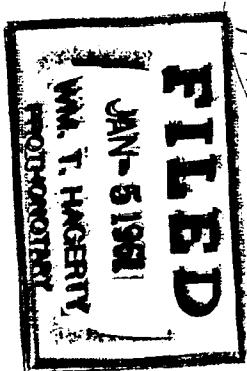
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
OF CLEARFIELD COUNTY, PENNA.

Miscellaneous Docket Page

In re:

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR

D. EDWARD CHAPLIN, ESQ.



JOHN J. PENTZ
PRESIDENT JUDGE
CLEARFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA