

IN MEMORIAM

NETTIE E. KARCHER

1892-1969

Nettie E. Karcher was born on March <sup>15</sup>~~24~~, 1892 at Burlington, Wisconsin, the daughter of Albert Karcher and Minnie Sawyer Karcher. Both the Karcher and the Sawyer families were pioneer settlers of the Town of Burlington and held lands from the time of the government patent. She was educated in the Burlington Schools, and graduated from the Burlington High School in 1910.

Following graduation she attended the University of Wisconsin and was one of the first female graduates of its Law School, receiving her degree in 1915. During her attendance at the University of Wisconsin she was active in sports, and played on the women's baseball team.

Following her graduation she entered private practice of the law at Burlington, Wisconsin, a practice that was to span fifty-four years, until her death on March 24th of this year. She was the first woman attorney in Racine County.

During her many years of practice she was at various times associated with her brother, Gilbert A. Karcher, whose memorial we have heard today, as well as with Marie Healy, now Mrs. Walter Uebele, Sr., E. J. Cook, Robert M. Fulton, Harold Weiler, Edward J. Zahn, Jr., the Honorable Gilbert N. Geraghty, Probate Judge for Racine County and Richard F. Foltz. All who practiced with her recall that she was generous with her time and talent in assisting her associate.

She was active in community affairs during her entire life. For thirty-two years she served as a member of the Burlington School Board and held the position of clerk for most of that time. She was a moving force in the selection of the site and the erection of the present Burlington High School. She retained an active interest in the Burlington educational system until the time of her death.

Nettie E. Karcher will long be remembered for her enthusiastic support of the athletic teams of Burlington High School and the University of Wisconsin. Four decades of Burlington athletes will recall that she never missed a football or basketball game, either at home or away. In good weather or in bad, she was always on hand and was generous in providing transportation for students who would otherwise have been unable to attend. She was instrumental in obtaining the lighting system for the Burlington High School athletic field and was chairman of a memorial fund to honor the late "Dinty" Moore, who coached Burlington athletic teams for more than twenty-five years. She held season football tickets for the University of Wisconsin football games and faithfully attended, in fair weather or foul.

Nettie E. Karcher was an active sportswoman, naturalist and conservationist. She long held the reputation of being one of the better shots in the Burlington area, and particularly enjoyed pheasant hunting. For many years she enjoyed fishing excursions to Canada and was always generous in sharing the fruits of her success as a fisherman with her family and friends. Together with her brother, Gilbert, she was instrumental in the establishment of a pond on their family farm, which was stocked with trout, blue gills, and northern. She and Gilbert also permitted the free use of a portion of their property for the pheasant raising program of the Burlington Conservation Club.

Too much cannot be said of the professional attributes of Nettie E. Karcher. For nearly fifty-four years she served the residents of the Burlington area with consummate professional skill. In her earlier years she engaged in some trial practice, but in later years acquired a reputation across the counties of Racine, Kenosha and Walworth as a probate lawyer and a tax practitioner. She gave meticulous attention to the needs of her clients, was prompt and efficient in handling their affairs and at the same time had a warm human understanding of their problems and needs. At one time or another,

during the course of her practice she served practically every church in the Burlington area without compensation.

She enjoyed a cordial relationship with all of the attorneys and judges with whom she practiced. She was particularly concerned with establishing amiable relations among the members of the Burlington Bar and actively supported any efforts in that direction.

She was a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Wisconsin and Racine County Bar Association and was active and interested in their affairs.

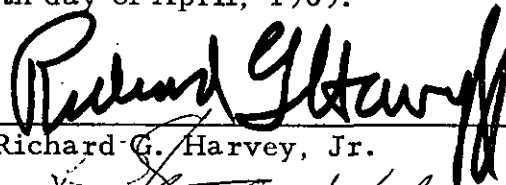
She will be particularly remembered by the Legal Secretaries, the Register in Probate and the Probate Court Reporter by reason of the fact that whenever a term day was held in Burlington she would treat all of them to lunch.

She was an active member of the Order of the Eastern Star for more than fifty years and a member of the Burlington Professional Women's Club. She held offices in both organizations.

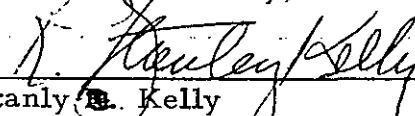
While her closest living relatives are cousins, her "family" consisted of her companion of over fifty years, Miss Alice Glaser, in whose home she resided, and Wealdon (Chub)Sawall, whom she considered as her son.

The passing of Nettie E. Karcher is a great loss to the City of Burlington and the County of Racine, and in particular to this Bar Association.

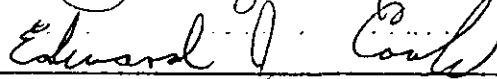
Respectfully submitted this 7th day of April, 1969.



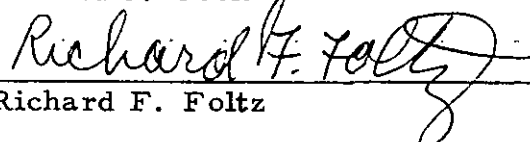
Richard G. Harvey, Jr.



R. Stanley B. Kelly



Edward J. Cook



Richard F. Foltz

Memorial Committee on Behalf of the  
Racine County Bar Association

THE COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN RE: [Illegible]

APRIL 7 1969

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FILED

APR 7 1969

EDNA S. BAILEY  
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

MEMORIAL TO ROBERT J. CHOINSKI

January 26, 1930

December 31, 1968

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

The Committee of the Racine County Bar Association appointed for that purpose, respectfully presents this memorial to the memory of ROBERT J. CHOINSKI.

ROBERT J. CHOINSKI, a member of the Racine County Bar, passed away on December 31, 1968, at the age of 38 years. He is survived by his wife, Patricia, and five children, Edmund, Joseph, Rhonda, Julia and Robert, residing in their home in Wind Lake, Wisconsin.

Bob was born in Milwaukee, and attended several Catholic schools, including St. Francis Minor Seminary High School, and won the Degree of Merit in the National Forensics League in 1945. He graduated from Notre Dame du Lac with a Bachelor of Science, Cum Laude and received his law degree from Marquette University Law School in 1958.

He was a member of the Phi Delta Phi Fraternity, the Law Review, and upon his admission to the bar, became active in the Wisconsin State Bar Association, Racine County Bar Association, the Judicial Society, member of the American Trial Lawyers Association, several Alumni Associations of the Universities that he attended, and was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.

He had received a West Point appointment from Congressman Clement Zablocki, 4th District in Milwaukee, but chose instead, the University of Notre Dame to further his education.

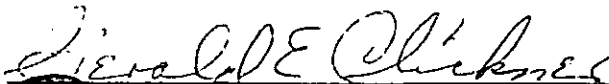
Bob had served with the U.S. Army Chemical Corps in Korea from 1951 to 1953, and was a Member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Past Commander of the Kulchar-Fohr V.F.W. Post 8343.

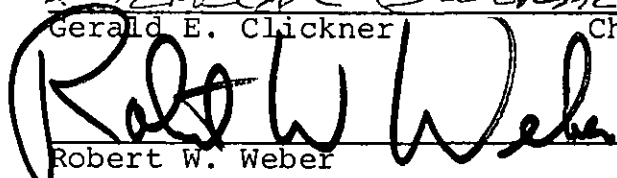
Upon his admission to the State Bar of Wisconsin, Bob entered into the active practice of law and had his principle offices at Hales Corners, Wisconsin, with an extensive legal practice in both Racine and Milwaukee Counties.

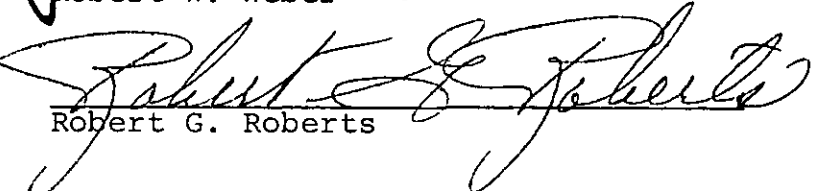
In a review of many of the legal files that were pending within Bob's office, it is obvious that his talents were extensive in meticulous research and preparation of his cases. He was quite successful in his presentation before Court and jury, and was well on his way to acquiring a reputation as a lawyer's lawyer. His inquiring mind and analysis of legal problems indicate that the legal fraternity has sustained a sincere loss, and it is with heartfelt sympathy and deep respect that we ask this memorial on behalf of ROBERT J. CHOINSKI, be made a part of the records of this Court.

Respectfully submitted:

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:

  
Gerald E. Clickner Chairman

  
Robert W. Weber

  
Robert G. Roberts



STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT

RACINE COUNTY

Response of Hon. Howard J. DuRocher

MEMORIAL TO THE LIFE AND CHARACTER OF

ROBERT J. CHOINSKI  
GILBERT A. KARCHER  
NETTIE E. KARCHER

How often in our busy, troubled lives do we have, or do we take, the opportunity to pause and reflect upon the problems or mysteries of life, or of death, or of where we, as individuals or as members of a great profession, are tending? Our modern life has become one of immediate expediency--"each unforgiving moment" imperatively demands our undivided but fleeting, usually superficial, attention. Our troubled modern world invades, at every turn, upon our rarely attainable privacy to the complete exclusion of reflective contemplation. The precious moments of refreshment and renewal are denied us in our work (where the necessities of production require our constant application), in our homes (where radio and television constantly traumatize us with the immediate 'on the spot' events of the moment throughout the entire world in a single 15-minute newscast), in our universities (the traditional cloistered refuge of the scholar for study, preparation, withdrawal and contemplation by strident violent demands for change and involvement), and even in our churches (where we are bombarded with exhortations to action). Never today--except perhaps in sleep, so often attainable only under sedation--can we find any rejuvenating solitude. Our

lives seem dedicated to the proposition that man is (not in questionable, but in bad) company when he is alone.

Wordsworth expressed the idea, far better and more simply than I, when he wrote: "The world is too much with us, late and soon, getting and spending, we lay waste our powers; Little we see in nature that is ours."

So, ladies and gentlemen, it seems to me entirely fitting in this judicial circuit that we stop for a few moments our usual preoccupations--even the inexorable wheels of justice, to pause and receive the memorials and testimonials, prepared by fellow lawyers, to the lives, activities, and accomplishments of these departed members of our profession.

I did not know intimately those upon whose worth we reflect today. My acquaintance with them, to my regret, was largely confined to the amenities of the courtroom. In that context I attest to their professional competence, but even more importantly to their complete moral integrity.

It is my misfortune to belong to the generation of none of them. I belong in between, and so perhaps as a compensation can understand each better than they would understand each other. The brother and sister, Karcher, belonged to a less frenzied time than ours, one in which the urge for an elegant image was sublimated to the cultivation or development of qualities of immortal worth



and enduring value. They never married. What a pity. What fine parents they would have made. Yet, perhaps for that reason, each was able to extend his influence for good over a circle far wider than that of the modern family and to benefit, by association, many succeeding generations of young people who fondly and gratefully recall their memory.

Robert Choinski truly represented the vision and resourcefulness of the modern attorney. His eyes were upon the future and he adjusted--in fact he fostered and advanced--most readily the contemporary transitions which are taking place in modern jurisprudence--even at the time of his death he was engaged in litigation which might well establish various features of the law relating to heart transplants. His court appearances were invariably stimulating, provocative and challenging. His tragic and untimely death has deprived us of one of our most promising young advocates.

I am authorized to announce that my fellow judges join me in this response to the memorials presented by the Racine County Bar Association to the memories of Gilbert A. Karcher, Nettie E. Karcher, and Robert J. Choinski.

It is ordered that those memorials and this response be received and spread upon the permanent records of this court, and that copies thereof be furnished to the families of those now memorialized.

Apr 8  
1969

Reuben A. Gorsky, for thirty-six years a member of the Racine County Bar, died at Veteran's Hospital at Wood, Wisconsin, on March 10, 1969.

He was born in Russia on March 12, 1908, and came to Racine in 1923, where his father opened a furniture store. Reuben attended the Racine Schools, then was graduated from Marquette Law School in 1933, and completed further legal studies at the University of Wisconsin in 1934.

Mr. Gorsky was inducted into the United States Army on June 30, 1942, and received his honorable discharge on October 7, 1945. During this time he served one and a half years overseas with the 95th Signal Corps. He was a member of the American Legion, and also of The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1391, of which he was a former Commander.

In addition to his practice of the law, and his position as a Circuit Court Commissioner, Mr. Gorsky had many interests. He was a member and former president of B'nai B'rith Lodge and a member and Sunday School teacher at Beth Israel Sinai Temple.

He served on the Racine-Kenosha Regional Rent Control Board for two years, was a director of the Racine Board of Alcoholism, a member of the Wisconsin Central Democratic Committee, and a member of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Gorsky was always greatly interested in the theater, not only as a spectator but as an active performer. He was an able and devoted member of Temple Players, in Racine, and took parts in "Three Men on a Horse" and "Of Thee I Sing", among other productions.

He always enjoyed bowling and, until illness slowed him down somewhat, he bowled in two leagues; in the Veterans' League, he was captain of his team.

Reuben Gorsky had a great zest for life, love of and loyalty to his country, and particularly a great interest in people, especially the little people, the born losers. He handled many matters for the struggling and the unfortunate, without any expectation of fee or com-

pensation, in the finest tradition of the practice.

Many of us will long remember him as a great raconteur. One of his greatest pleasures was telling a good story expertly, easily, eyes twinkling with anticipation of the laugh that was sure to come. He was particularly a master of the dialect story, in which domain he had hardly a peer. Because of this ability, he was often called on for master of ceremonies and toastmaster duties.

Reuben Gorsky was a kindly, friendly man, and his passing means a grievous loss to a great many people. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his widow Toby, his daughter Lynn, and his brother Maurice.

Gerard F. Hardy, Chairman  
John D. Hays  
Robert F. Weber  
Maurice Shover  
Vernon F. Funder  
Jewel L. Flynn

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Filed  
10-6-68

MEMORIAL TO ELWYN B. BENSENE

To the Honorable Courts of Racine County:

May it please the Court: The undersigned Committee of the Racine County Bar Association presents this memorial to the memory of Elwyn B. Bensene, a member of our Bar and a warm and respected friend.

Elwyn was born in the Town of Raymond on September 13, 1913. He was raised on his parents' farm and lived in the community of Union Grove, Wisconsin all of his life, although his home actually was in the Town of Raymond. He graduated from Union Grove High School and was a graduate of Marquette Law School. He majored in real estate and probate law while at Law School and graduated from Law School in 1936.

Mr. Bensene opened his law office in Union Grove, Wisconsin in the Youngs Building on June 29, 1936, as a full time resident attorney conducting a general insurance agency as a side line.

He continued practicing as an attorney in Union Grove for over 33 years.

During the World War II years, Mr. Bensene was an agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. After the war, he returned to his practice in Union Grove.

Preceding him in death was his first wife, Marvel Hahn Bensene.

Surviving are his wife, Rosemarie; one son and daughter-in-law, John and Helen Bensene of Racine; two daughters, Marta and Donna of Union Grove; a stepdaughter, Mrs. Charles Mishleau; a step-son Ricky of Watertown, Wisconsin; five grandchildren; and one brother, Kenneth Bensene of Franksville.

Elwyn was a member of the First Methodist Church of Union Grove, Wisconsin, the State Bar of Wisconsin and Union Grove Masonic Lodge No. 244, or which he was Past Master.

Elwyn Bensene was active in civic affairs having served for many years on the Union Grove School Board and for a time held a state office in the East Wisconsin Conference of the Methodist Church.

Elwyn Bensene had an extensive legal practice and an extensive real estate practice. He bought, sold and developed real estate of all kinds. He was a good businessman with considerable foresight and business skill. He advised his business clients well. He is remembered by his clients not only as a competent legal and business advisor but as a warm friend. Being in a small community, he was well known and spent considerable time with his clients so as to develop a close relationship with them and so as to be considered by them as a family lawyer.

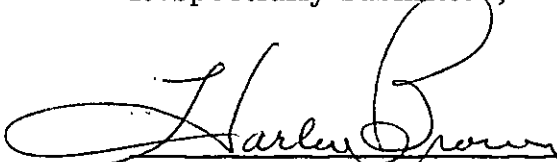
Elwyn B. Bensene was a self made man. He rose from very humble beginnings and through extreme effort and hard work lifted himself to a level of success.

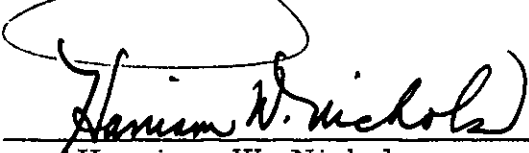
Elwyn's death occurred on April 3, 1969, in the Burlington Memorial Hospital. At age 55 he was still a young man but he lived a full and active life.

The Bar, The Bench and his host of friends will never forget him.

We respectfully request that this memorial be spread upon the records of this Court and that a copy be given to the family of Elwyn B. Bensene.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Harley Brown

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Harrison W. Nichols



Filed  
Oct 6-1969

MEMORIAL TO JOHN D. COSTELLO

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT:

The Committee of the Racine County Bar Association appointed for that purpose, respectfully presents this memorial to the memory of JOHN D. COSTELLO.

JOHN D. COSTELLO, a member of the Racine County Bar, passed away on February 22, 1968 at the age of 75 years. At the time of his death he was a practicing attorney in the City of Racine. JACK COSTELLO, as he was known by his many friends and acquaintances, was a prominent civic leader and served as postmaster for the City of Racine for 26 years.

He was born in Racine, Wisconsin on February 19, 1893 and lived his entire life in this city. He attended Garfield Grade School and in June, 1911, he graduated from Racine High School. During his high school days he was a newsboy for the Racine Journal News, now the Racine Journal Times, and upon his graduation from high school, he was made Circulation Manager of said newspaper. At the age of 21 years, he was promoted to the position of Advertising Manager and served in that capacity until he enlisted in the United States Army in 1917. He was a Second Lieutenant in the 352 ARO Squadron and he was honorably discharged from active service on February 20, 1919 but continued to serve in the Army Reserve until 1930. Upon returning from the Army in 1919 he joined Keefe & Company, a real estate and insurance firm, and at one time he was part owner and a Vice-President. He held various offices in Racine real estate groups.

In the Fall of 1931, he decided to attend Marquette University and graduated from law school with a Bachelor of Law degree, cum laude, in June, 1936. He attended morning classes at Marquette and worked for Keefe & Company in the afternoons

and studied late hours at night in order to obtain his law degree. He was elected President of his Freshman law school class.

On September 15, 1934 he was married to Helen M. Cook and two children were born of this marriage, one daughter, Kathleen H. Costello Garrity, now living in Long Beach, California, and one son, Dennis D. Costello, now living in Racine, Wisconsin. He had a burning desire to see his children attend college. Kathleen graduated from Marquette University as a physical therapist in 1959, and Dennis graduated from Marquette Law School in 1967 with a J. D. degree. At the present time Dennis is practicing law in Racine.

In the year 1936, JACK COSTELLO became Chairman of the Racine County Democratic Party, and in December of that year he was named Acting Postmaster for the City of Racine, Wisconsin. In January, 1937 he was appointed Postmaster of Racine by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and served as Postmaster until February, 1963, a span of 26 years. During the years that he was postmaster, he held many offices in the local, state and national chapters of the Postmasters Organizations. He was a close personal friend of James A. Farley, who was Postmaster General during part of the time that MR. COSTELLO was Postmaster of Racine. During the time he was postmaster, he and Fred Heinisch, Assistant Postmaster, instituted the Postal Rate Classification Clinic idea which speeded up postal service and was subsequently adopted by other post offices in the country. He was publicly praised by Postmaster General Summerfield.

MR. COSTELLO had been active in more than a dozen civic and community organizations; he served as President of the Racine Historical, Old Settlers, Zoological and Geological Societies, Commander of the American Legion Post 76, District

Commissioner of the American Legion and President and Business Manager of the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps. He was a member of the Racine, Milwaukee and Wisconsin Bar Associations and a member of the Elks Lodge and the Knights of Columbus. He was also an active member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

JACK COSTELLO had many, many friends in the City of Racine and the State of Wisconsin, and during his entire lifetime he earned the highest reputation for honesty and integrity as a businessman, a public servant and a lawyer. MR. COSTELLO's practice of the law was rather limited due to his position as postmaster. His practice principally consisted of probate work and the handling of business and real estate transactions. He was honest and sincere and represented his clients capably and efficiently at all times. He was in active practice at the time of his death.

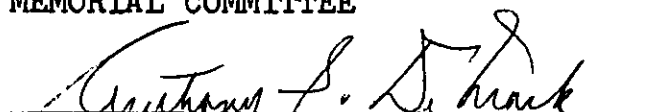
He was a good, kind and devoted husband and father, and he and his family took many vacations together. He enjoyed playing golf, bowling and fishing in his younger days. Later he became interested in rock collecting and lapidary work as a hobby.

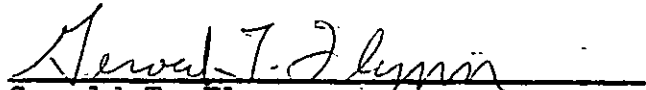
His many friends in the Racine County Bar Association and in the business community will miss JACK COSTELLO who has contributed so much to the progress of the City of Racine.

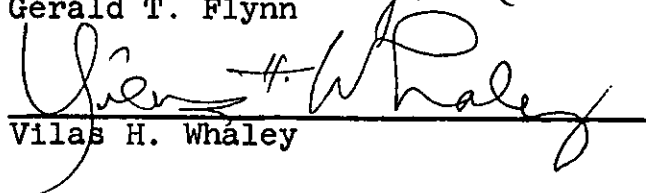
We ask that this Memorial presented on behalf of JOHN D. COSTELLO be made a part of the records of this Court.

Respectfully submitted,

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

  
Anthony S. DeMark Chairman

  
Gerald T. Flynn

  
Vilas H. Whaley

