

MEMORIAL FOR WILLIAM HENRY CRAGO

Remarks by Irving W. Coleman, Esq.

CHILDHOOD

Bill was born July 22, 1910 in Duluth, Minnesota, the son of a mining engineer whose career took him all over the world. Bill's childhood was spent in Duluth, Iron Mountain, Michigan and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

EDUCATION

After graduating from high school in Colorado Springs, Bill enrolled at Colorado College. He then transferred to the University of Michigan, returning to the Midwest and a school that many members of his family had attended. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in 1932, Bill stayed in Ann Arbor to attend the University of Michigan Law School. Bill graduated from the Law School in 1935 having served on Law Review and graduating near the top of his class.

EARLY CAREER

Following law school, Bill went to New York City to work as an associate at Cravath Swain & Moore, one of the preeminent law firms in the country. At Cravath Bill began his career-long concentration on corporate law, but he also found time to be involved in some of the landmark Supreme Court cases challenging the New Deal.

After several years at Cravath, Bill was lured away to the corporate law department of Interchemical Corporation, also in New York City.

MILITARY

World War II intervened, as it did for most men in Bill's generation. Bill entered the army in 1942 and served with the Judge Advocate General's Corps until the summer of 1946 when he retired from active duty with the rank of Captain. Bill served in North Africa and Italy. The last few years of his service were devoted to organizing new civilian governments in the towns and cities of Italy after their liberation.

FAMILY

While organizing the government of Ferrara, a city in northern Italy, Bill met, fell in love with and married Lori Malengo, a young Ferrarese woman who had been acting as a translator for Bill and other American officers. His tour of duty completed, Bill took Lori back to his birthplace, Duluth.

During their years in Duluth, Bill and Lori had two daughters: Victoria, now living with her family in Philadelphia, and Elisabeth, who lives with her family in Bethlehem.

POST-WAR CAREER

From 1946 until 1963, Bill worked as a corporate lawyer with the United States Steel Corporation in Duluth, primarily with US Steel's subsidiaries, Oliver Iron Mining Company and the Duluth, Mesabi & Iron Range Railroad. In 1963 Bill turned down an opportunity to go to US Steel headquarters in Pittsburgh and instead took the job of Vice President and General Counsel of Pennsylvania Power & Light in Allentown. Bill and his family settled in Bethlehem and Bill remained at PP&L until his retirement in 1971.

Bill and Irving W. Coleman were classmates and good friends at the University of Michigan Law School. Shortly after Bill retired from the PP&L in 1971, he joined with Irving Coleman at the Whitehall Mall in Allentown to specialize with him in corporate law and corporate finance. This association continued for approximately five years.

In response to the many reader requests for the poem recited by Clark Clifford at the memorial service for statesman W. Averell Harriman (PARADE, Nov. 16, 1986), we herewith offer "To Those I Love," by Isla Paschal Richardson:

If I should ever leave you whom I love
To go along the Silent Way, grieve not,
Nor speak of me with tears, but laugh and talk
Of me as if I were beside you there.
(I'd come—I'd come, could I but find a way!
But would not tears and grief be barriers?)
And when you hear a song or see a bird I loved,
Please do not let the thought of me
Be sad...For I am loving you just as I always have...
You were so good to me!
There are so many things I wanted still
To do—so many things to say to you...
Remember that I did not fear...It was
Just leaving you that was so hard to face...
We cannot see Beyond...But this I know:
I loved you so—'twas heaven here with you!
(September 4, 1987)