

## EVERETT KENT

by

*Walter Sandercock*

Everett Kent was admitted to the Northampton County Bar on March 13, 1911, and from that day until the day he entered the hospital on September 24, 1963, was actively engaged in the practice of law. At the time of his death on October 14, 1963, there were only three lawyers of the Northampton County Bar who had been admitted before Mr. Kent. None of them have been actively practicing law for some years.

Immediately after his admission Mr. Kent became engaged in politics, and at various times during his legal career represented the County of Northampton, the Northampton County Prison Board, the Sheriff's Office, the County Controller's office, the Register of Wills office, and many municipalities, including road boards, school boards, and town councils. He also appeared in court as special Attorney General for the State of Pennsylvania and represented as special counsel the County of Monroe and the County of Carbon. In 1923 and 1927, Mr. Kent was elected and served as Congressman for this District, and in 1936, 1940, 1944, 1948, 1952, and 1956, he was elected and served as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention. Twice Mr. Kent ran unsuccessfully for the office of Judge, the first time as the regular Democratic candidate, and the second time independently.

As the result of his wide acquaintance and legal ability he had clients from all parts of the Congressional District. His practice was not confined to any particular field of the law, and many of his cases started in a Justice of the Peace Office and ended in the Supreme Court. Each case was important and received his complete attention. He never went into Court unprepared, either in researching the law or in investigating the facts.

Everett Kent was born in East Bangor, Pa., on November 15, 1886. After graduating from the Bangor High School in 1906, he taught school for two years, after which time he went to the

University of Pennsylvania to study law. Mr. Kent maintained his law offices and residence in the Borough of Bangor from the time of his admission until the time of his death. He was married in 1913, and is survived by his widow, Daisy S. Kent, two daughters, Sarah S. Proctor and Mary L. MacMasters, and a son, James E. Kent, also by eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Mr. Kent was a member of St. John's Evangelical Church of Bangor, and also an active member of the Bangor Masonic Lodge.

In a sense, the death of Mr. Kent seems to mark an end to an Era. He was the last actively practicing attorney who had started his law career before the Practice Act of 1915 and the modern rules of practice. In his earlier days an attorney had to have an exacting knowledge of pleading, and Blackstone was still an authority. This exactitude was to a certain extent carried over by Mr. Kent into his later practice. His death ended the life of a good attorney, a colorful politician, and a loving husband and father. The Northampton County Bar has lost one of its best known advocates. "Attorney and Counselor at Law", when applied to him, carries with it the full implication of what a lawyer can become, not only in the Courts of the Commonwealth, but also in the community where he lived and practiced. He will be missed.