

CHARLES L. SHIMER

by

Clyde W. Teel

This morning I ask this Court and this Bar and all those in attendance that we pause in our affairs and give our attention and thought to the flow of the life and death of Charles L. Shimer. While to attach him to mere words is to detach him in part from each of our concept of him; perhaps my words and all your remembrances will give us not so much the weight of his death on February 19, 1970, but the light and purpose of his life with us.

Charles L. Shimer became a member of the Northampton County Bar on October 3, 1932. His enrollment of his name in the roster of this Bar was indeed a significant committment by him to his profession, for henceforth until a day or two before his death, he made himself answerable to the constant duties and responsibilities of a busy law practice.

From his office in Nazareth, he responded to the confidence and trust which so many clients placed in him by the careful, wise and learned handling of their legal affairs and problems.

The general practice of law for over thirty-seven years is a way of life and service for which we Judges and Lawyers have informed respect. It was in Charles' conscientious response to the demands of a busy professional life that we find a broader pattern and purpose. It was his fine sense of fairness, his faithfulness to his word, his good will for the legal profession, his high regard for the position and dignity of the Bench and his pride in his daily participation in a system of justice which assembled and constructed for him a career which we label "distinguished".

In gratefulness for his contribution to the reputation and integrity of this Bar, we express our esteem for him and give to him an eminent place in its history.

It is fitting that we look to other areas of Charles' interest and activities in order to memorialize the goodness of this man. He freely supplied his intellect and judgment to community

affairs and especially to his church. I can personally attest to his continued interest in child welfare for a period of three decades which included his participation as Director and former President of the Children's Aid Society of Northampton County. His interest in youth found expression in his long involvement in the affairs of the Nazareth Y.M.C.A., his leadership and teaching in his church school, his interest in Muhlenberg College, and more recently in his service as Trustee of Hood College. Yet foremost in his interest was his church, St. John's United Church at Nazareth; all his life he served her in various positions of responsibility, including Deacon, Elder, Superintendent of Church School, member and one time lay President of its Consistory. The faithfulness of his service led to recognition by the church, for it advanced him to positions of responsibility with the Pennsylvania Northeast Conference of the United Church of Christ and to the United Church Board for World Ministries.

If you were ever with Charles in moments of relaxation or when other members of his family were present, he, by all manner of word and conduct, gradually disclosed his joy in all his family roles, of son, husband, father and grandfather. Charles' father, Howard E. Shimer, died many years ago. Charles, with his brother Samuel, enriched the life of his mother, Mrs. Lucile M. Miller Shimer, with filial attention and affection. In his references to and in his manner with his wife, Marion, you surely learned their marriage was fashioned of love and years of purposeful living, albeit he might gleefully on occasion confess his mere role of dutiful husband. There was no uncertainty that he regarded the destiny of their union as being crowned by the presence of two sons, Howard A. and Conrad C., who to his delight added two daughters, Ann and Judy, to his family. With the advent of grandchildren, indeed his cup runneth over.

I have related to you but a few things about a wonderful man, yet there is still much more to say: he was most thoughtful and kind, he possessed a delightful wit, he was happy with friends, and indeed had a host of them, he relished times of gaiety and fun, and yet his ways and manner were a bit on the quiet and shy side. I found him possessed of superb judgment in dealing with others, and because of it he had an unusual capacity to get along with others and to collaborate with them in all manner of work.

All in all, I see him as one possessed of that mysterious power of serious intention and good deed. In the delight of his friendship and in the fullness and integrity of his professional life, we find our kinship with him; in his efforts to improve our todays against our yesterdays, and in the chemistry of his benevolence to his fellowmen, we record our memory of him.