

Eight Charged With Writing Wills Illegally

The Lancaster County Bar Association has started civil court action against eight men who are magistrates or notaries public, asking that they be restrained from "illegally" practicing law.

The eight are: Paul F. Diehm, Lititz, justice of the peace; Wayne S. Martin, Goodville, notary public; Raymond E. Scheckard, Columbia, notary, Alger H. Spirk, Schoenck, justice; H. B. Slack, Intercourse, justice; Henry P. Stager, New Providence justice; Lester Weidman, Elizabethtown, justice; Arthur M. Yeager, justice.

The complaint against each man charges him with illegally practicing law and says he "wrongfully and unlawfully practices law in Lancaster County by rendering legal services and advice to various persons and by drafting wills and other documents having legal effects."

All Cited for Wills

Each man is charged specifically with drawing up wills. In each case, according to the papers filed, the justice or notary drew up a will for a fee, and a copy of the will in question is attached to the papers in the suit against each individually.

The papers were filed in the office of the Prothonotary Friday afternoon.

20 Days To File Reply

Under the law, the persons named in the suits have 20 days to file a reply.

Scheckard, who is in the insurance business at Columbia, said that if a client requests information on a law, he will give it, but does not ask a fee. He said no one from the bar association had talked to him about the matter, and that if he violated the law, he did so "unwittingly."

Scheckard also raised the question as to whether he could hire an attorney to fight an action brought by the bar association, which represents all attorneys.

Others of the eight declined comment or were deer hunting or out-of-town for other reasons, and could not be reached for comment.

H. Clay Burkholder, president of the bar association, explained at the press conference that the Pennsylvania Bar Association, which joined in the action taken by the county bar, seeks to end

WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Insect

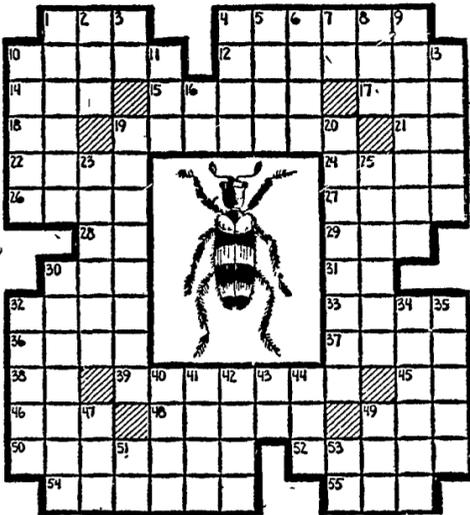
HORIZONTAL

- 1,4 Depicted insect
- 10 Injures
- 12 Itemized bill
- 14 War god
- 15 Elude
- 17 Tree
- 18 Six (Roman)
- 19 Individuals
- 21 Part of "be"
- 22 Volcano in Sicily
- 24 Great Lake
- 26 Foreteller
- 27 Short
- 28 Gutta (ab.)
- 29 Goddess of plenty
- 30 Operated
- 31 Direction (ab.)
- 32 Palm fruit
- 33 Pulled
- 36 Above
- 37 Toiletry case
- 38 Note of scale
- 39 Malay garments
- 45 Radon (ab.)
- 46 Finish
- 48 Wash lightly
- 49 Fabulous bird
- 50 Shore
- 52 Run way to marry
- 54 Shows pleasure
- 55 Be indebted

VERTICAL

- 1 Common mineral
- 2 Age
- 3 Type square
- 4 Prejudice
- 5 Within (comb. form)
- 6 Level
- 7 Preposition
- 8 Tell a falsehood
- 9 Pastries
- 10 It sometimes infests
- 11 Observe
- 13 Ant
- 16 Queen Victoria (ab.)
- 19 Associates
- 20 Fencing positions
- 23 Nullify
- 25 German prince
- 30 Deep valleys
- 32 Cupolas
- 34 It is found in
- 35 Cringe
- 40 Seed covering
- 41 Be borne
- 42 Units
- 43 Canadian province (ab.)
- 44 Driving command
- 47 Barrier
- 49 Propel a boat
- 51 Chinese river
- 53 Behold!

Here's the Answer



the unlicensed or unauthorized practice of law

Stating that the regulations for admission to the bar are very strict, he listed the requirements for becoming an attorney. Admission to the bar makes the attorney an officer of the court, he said, and he is answerable to the court for any misconduct or ethical breach of his duties as a lawyer.

Burkholder's Statement

Burkholder, as president of the bar, issued the following statement:

"The laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have established very strict regulations for admission to the Bar. Every prospective lawyer is first investigated by a preliminary examining committee which carefully inquires into his fitness from the standpoint of integrity, temperament, proper motivations and character.

"After the prospective law student has been approved by this committee he will not be permitted to begin the study of law unless he has an appropriate college degree or its equivalent. He then must engage in the study of law for a period of not less than three years. In addition, he must serve a clerkship in the office of a practicing lawyer for a period of six months and finally he must have passed a rigorous examination given by the State Board of Law Examiners. Four of the six months' clerkship must be served after this examination has been taken.

Is Officer of Court

"When the law student has passed the examination and served the clerkship, he is eligible for admission to practice law before the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, and the courts of the county in which he is registered. His admission automatically makes him an

officer of the court in which he is practicing and makes him answerable to that court for any misconduct or ethical breach of his duties as a lawyer.

"Each Bar Association maintains a Board of Censors before whom complaints about the conduct of a lawyer are heard. The lawyer, therefore, in Pennsylvania is a well trained and well disciplined citizen who is subject to sanctions which are not applied to nonmembers of the Bar. Because of the high standards maintained in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, one of the objectives of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, as well as of all the local Bar Associations is to eliminate unlicensed or unauthorized practice of law.

Cites Increasing Activity

"In recent years there has been an increasing activity on the part of unlicensed persons to give legal advice and to draw legal documents. The requirement of a license to practice law is dictated by considerations of public interest, and no one should be permitted to disregard this requirement merely because he believes himself qualified to do what the law says he shall not do.

"The public readily accepts the fact that if unlicensed persons are allowed to practice medicine, the public's health would be gravely menaced. It should be equally clear to everyone that a man's property, his reputation, his liberty, and, in fact, his very life is similarly placed in jeopardy by the advice and counsel of a person untrained in the law and accountable to no higher authority for his conduct.

Not Singled Out

"Our Bar Association has instituted proceedings against certain laymen for the unauthorized practice of the law. It is, of course, impossible to proceed at one time against all of the persons believed to be engaged in the unlicensed practice of the law in this country.

"The present suits do not represent the singling out of individuals for purposes of attempting to make examples only of them but are a part of a comprehensive program intended to stamp out all unlicensed or unauthorized practice of the law in our country. We shall continue to carry out our objective whenever we find laymen, whoever they may be, guilty of unlicensed practice of law. We respectfully solicit the support of the public in carrying out this duty."

Rambling With The Sage of Ant Hill

Washington, D. C.,

Horoscope—In the lobby of the D. C. Unemployment Compensation Board office there is a penny-weighing scale. The front panel of the scale bears the legend "Character Readings," while the side panels have the legend "Your Fate and Fate." There is no doubt that many recipients of unemployment payments are anxious to know their fate as to future employment.

The Nation's Capital does not have a Santa Clause parade of the Gumbel-Mercy type, but some of the suburban shopping areas do stage such affairs. However, the many department stores have put on their holiday garb, toy departments are entertaining the young set and the oldsters gape at the gaily decorated window displays. The F. Street merchants' associations have erected the sidewalk lights and Christmas characters and will formally open the display Monday evening. The Christmas shopping rush got off to a great start the day after Thanksgiving and merchants predict the big best year yet experienced.

The National Community

Ranck Bar Attorney

John Milton Ranck, in whose office the conference was held, is serving as attorney for the bar association.

In each case, a copy of a will which the justice or notary is said to have drawn up is attached. Seven of the wills were drawn up for either Henry H. Olenzahn or James R. Grant, both of Philadelphia, and one for Robert P. Agnew, Columbia. The three men were private investigators for the bar, Ranck said.

The bar asks each of the eight men be halted from advertising or holding himself out in any way as an attorney or as one qualified to draw legal papers.

Giving legal advice with respect to wills or the handling of decedents' estates of other matters, or from drawing or preparing wills or any other legal documents of any kind whatsoever.

Practicing law in any form, either directly or indirectly, and from consulting with and contacting his customers as to their so-called legal rights, and furnishing them with advice as to legal matters, or with any form of legal service.

The bar also asked that if after hearing, if deemed appropriate by the court, the entire matter be referred to the District Attorney for prosecution. It also asked the court to take any further action "deemed necessary and proper for the protection of the public and the maintenance of the standards of the legal profession in the practice of law."

Christmas tree will be erected on the Ellipse south of the White House and the second Pageant of Peace will be officially opened on December 18 when President Eisenhower presses a button in Gettysburg to light the tree. A sixty-five foot spruce from the Black Hills of South Dakota will carry 8,000 lights and decorations of every description and color. The Pathway of Peace will be lined with Christmas trees representing the States of the Union and many foreign lands. Non-Christian lands will likewise contribute symbols of peace and brotherhood. The pageant will continue over a two-week period and will present religious services, carol singing, tableaux, folk dancing and programs staged by many of the embassies.

Burial on Capitol Hill—The recent Roll Call, the newspaper of Capitol Hill, tells of the "burial" of Senator Henry C. Hansborough, Republican of North Dakota. The Senator, prior to his death, had expressed a wish to remain on the Hill forever and left instructions for cremation and the scattering of his ashes under a certain elm tree. In the latter part of 1933 the Senator passed away and, after funeral services were held, the ashes were delivered to a friend. That night a group of the late Senator's closet friends including a member of Congress assembled and, after a simple prayer was offered by a Congressional aide, the ashes were scattered under the appropriate elm. It was a clandestine affair but the Senator gained the distinction of being the only one, regardless of type of burial, "to lie at peace in the softly-sloping hills of the Capitol grounds."

On a recent lunch hour trip to Capitol Hill it was noted that there was a dearth of visitors. It was, no doubt, an "off-day" for usually every day is a busy one in the Capitol. However, the absence of Congressional sessions does cast a certain sepulchral effect to the corridors of the great building. Even the Senate and House Office Buildings lack the usual hustle and bustle. Many members of Congress have transplanted some of their office staffs to the home territory, to "rebuild fences" and furnish constituents with expeditious service. The trek to Washington will begin after Christmas.

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