

Memorial

To

Atwood Cranston

May 18, 1906 - July 24, 1957

Hennepin County Bar Association
District Court
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Saturday, May 10, 1958

Atwood Cranston was born May 18, 1906 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the youngest of three children born to Robert and Angie Atwood Cranston. His father, who died when Atwood was a very young lad, traveled throughout the United States as a representative of the American Book Company. His mother, still living at the age of eighty-nine, taught for many years at Dowling School for Crippled Children in Minneapolis.

He attended Lyndale Avenue Grade School and West High School, graduating from the latter in 1923. During his high school years he was a first string lineman in football and was also voted in all-city player. Atwood graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1928 at the age of twenty-two years. While at the University, he was a member of Chi Psi Fraternity and the Phi Delta Phi Law Fraternity. Two universities had offered athletic scholarships to him, Gonzaga University in Spokane and Northwestern University in Chicago, but during his summer vacation following high school graduation, he suffered a broken back in a train accident and consequently never really had an opportunity to exploit his extraordinary athletic abilities.

Mr. Cranston's first professional association after admission to the Minnesota bar [on October 11, 1928] was with an old-time practitioner, Al Hanson, in the very small town of Baker, Montana. There he learned property, titles and oil and gas law thoroughly. At the same time, he invested in mineral leases which proved to have been an excellent decision as the years went by. On one of his trips to Minneapolis, he re-met a college friend, Pauline Yoerg of Hudson, Wisconsin. They were married in 1931 and Atwood left Baker for practice in Minneapolis which continued until 1933 when he established his own general practice in Worthington, Minnesota.

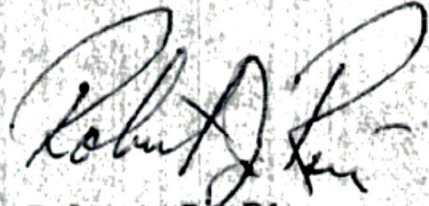
In 1942, Mr. Cranston applied for a naval commission but because of his back injury was unable to accomplish active duty. Wanting to do what he could for his country, he stayed in Washington with the Office of Price Administration and later became associated with the Department of Justice as a Special Assistant Attorney General in charge of litigation. As such trial chief, he traveled the United States extensively and tried cases for the government against some of the largest corporations in America. It was during these years that he accumulated his massive background in tax law, procedure and federal practice.

In 1946, Mr. Cranston was admitted to the Bar of the State of New York and continued on there for three years exclusively as a tax conference and trial attorney. He and his family returned to Minneapolis in 1949 where he established a general practice in the McKnight Building and subsequently in the Builders Exchange Building. It was at this time that this writer had the great pleasure and honor of officing with him, which association lasted for several years. Being with Mr. Cranston gave me an education that no amount of book learning could approximate.

I can state with complete sincerity that he was one of the most intelligent, and certainly the most happy and friendly man I have ever known. Every one enjoyed visiting his home which was always a bright and popular meeting place. No man loved his family more. No one I have ever met could tell a story or relate an incident more entertainingly than Atwood with his quiet, charming and gentlemanly manner.

Atwood Cranston died July 24, 1957, and is buried in Hudson Wisconsin. He is survived by his wife, Pauline and two daughters, Paula Sanford, whose husband is Lawrence Sanford, practicing attorney in Duluth, Minnesota, and Kathy, a junior at the University of Minnesota.

Atwood Cranston is no longer with us, but to those of us who knew him and whose lives he touched, his influence remains to enrich our lives.



Robert J. Rice

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[The roll of attorneys admitted by the Minnesota Supreme Court lists Sidney Atwood Cranston as being admitted on October 11, 1928]

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