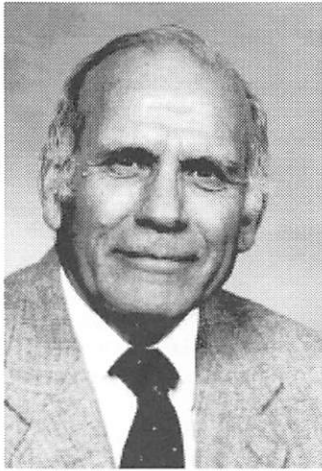


# Rooker Report

April 18, 1995

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*Sadly, two of Nashville's most admired General Sessions Court judges were taken from us during a two-week period in March. Judge Donald Washburn lost a two-month bout with cancer on March 15 and retired Judge Edward Gale Robinson was killed in a one-car accident on March 28. The following tributes are our way of...*



## Saying Goodbye

### Judge Donald Washburn, 1921-1995

It was never Donald Washburn's style to play to the press. He preferred to conduct his business without fanfare and to leave the publicity spotlight to those more prone to notoriety.

His understated persona underscored the character and charm that endeared him to those whose paths he crossed, both publicly and privately. The various dimensions of his life were marked by a rare trait of gentle firmness.

His decisions from the bench were always precipitous of due deliberation and almost never provoked headline controversy. Of all the judges who served alongside him during an accomplished 30-year career, none comes to mind who possessed such subdued authority.

He was never one to reflect on past accomplishments, at least in a boastful manner. But he could have. There were many good deeds to his credit.

Overshadowed by his tenure on the bench was the fact that he was the first person to serve as chief of staff when the city and county governments merged to form Metropolitan Government in 1963. He had earned the key position by serving the nine previous years as administrative assistant to County Judge Beverly Briley, who was elected Metro's first mayor.

Briley, now deceased, appointed Mr. Washburn to a Traffic Court judgeship in 1965. In years to follow, the traffic court would be merged with the General Sessions courts and Judge Washburn would go on to be elected to eight-year terms a total of four times.

Few people know that it was Judge Washburn who originated the county's traffic school program. Working in cooperation with the Tennessee Department of Safety, he introduced classes in 1969 to educate first offenders on the perils of bad driving habits as an alternative to paying fines. He personally participated in the class training program, which has since become a vital multifaceted extension of the courts.

The fact that Judge Washburn never sought recognition for his accomplishments spoke well for his character. For him, reward didn't come from hoopla over the person doing the deed, but from the success of the deed itself.

And during his darkest moment, conceding defeat to an unyielding cancerous foe, his preference for quietude was dignified by hundreds of personal prayers and restrained distance by those he considered close.

He would have wanted it that way.

### Judge E. Gale Robinson, 1932-1995

If a person's success in life is measured by the number of people who grieve his death, then Edward Gale Robinson was a magnate of supreme standing.

Hundreds upon hundreds of admirers paid last respects to the man whose infectious smile and charismatic personality brought an unprecedented freshness to the local judiciary.

In one way or another, the man they came to grieve had touched each of their lives in a positive way. Now, much too soon, they had come to express belated gratitude.

Just having known Gale Robinson and sharing his presence was a memorable experience. Having him as a personal friend was a blessing. For friendship was something he cherished and regarded as a lifetime commitment. He applied the same philosophy to his enemies. One never had to wonder in which category they fit.

In that respect, he reflected the characteristics of his heroes, Andrew Jackson and Harry Truman, whom he admired for their "guts and courage." Evidence that he possessed the same qualities was his never-bending determination to defend his convictions, regardless of political correctness.

Although he was a link in a long family chain of politicians, his approach to public service was considered less than traditional. He applied his own brand of courtroom decorum, often utilizing humor to convey stern messages to litigants. Even those on the losing end of cases appeared to be entertained if not vindicated.

Judge Robinson's quick wit and colorful persona made him a favorite among the working press. Often on slow news days, reporters would sit in his courtroom, knowing they could count on picking up a story. Sel-dom were they disappointed.

He was the spitting image of Andy Griffith, right down to a southern drawl that congered up visual impressions of Mayberry's Andy Taylor. Someone once said that Sheriff Andy could sit as special judge for Gale and nobody would ever know the difference. Of course, Judge Robinson never needed a script.

He probably could have continued to be a judge, but he chose to give up his robe after 19 years to run for mayor. When he failed to win, he assumed management of the family's East Nashville funeral home.

Ironically, it was there that the county's most colorful judge would hold final court...But this time, no one was entertained.

## Retired Warrant Officer, Barber to the Stars

# Clyde Waynick Left Mark on Nashville

As a traffic warrant officer, Clyde Waynick was known for his kindness and eagerness to help people with their problems – qualities that earned him high marks with the general public and fellow employees.

His gift for conversation enabled him to establish a rapport with customers, making them feel at ease in a somewhat-uncomfortable environment.

Mr. Waynick shared that talent with the Traffic Violations Bureau for 16 years before his retirement three years ago this month. The time had come, he said, to find a new audience for the stories of his eventful life.

Unfortunately, a series of major health setbacks marred his retirement dreams and culminated in a brave but futile struggle with cancer. In the late evening hours of Good Friday, he passed away in the arms of his devoted wife Merrill at the family's Green Hills residence.

Before joining the traffic bureau, Mr. Waynick was a professional barber whose clientele included some of country music's biggest stars. Among his customers were Elvis Presley, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Don Gibson and Tex Ritter.

He built his reputation while working at the Green Hills Barber Shop for five years. Then, with encouragement from Ray Walker of the Jordanaires quartet, he opened his own shop just down the street. Appropriately, the shop was called "Clyde's Music City Bar-

ber Shop," a name suggested by local radio-television personality Judd Collins.

In addition to those already mentioned, his regular customer list included George Hamilton IV, Webb Pierce, Faron Young, Teddy and Doyle Wilburn, Little Jimmy Dickens, Carl Smith, Jerry Clower and too many others to count.

He delighted in telling friends of the time Dolly Parton asked him to work on her 'do. But he stopped short of revealing whether it was her real hair or one of her many wigs.

By 1972, Mr. Waynick had become such a constant figure in the recording industry that he was asked to write an article for a book on "Country Music Who's Who." The publisher dubbed him "Barber to the Stars" as an introduction to his story depicting his relationship with the stars. Although pressed for time in which to complete the article, his narrative was one of the book's brightest features.

Tokens of appreciation from many of the stars were casually displayed around his home, such as an expensive designer leather vest with the inscription "Bocephus" given to him by Hank Williams Jr.

It was during his barbering career that Mr. Waynick developed a strong friendship with singer-songwriter Don Gibson, country music's grandest star of the 1950s whose career was shortened by bad health.

After years of total absence from public view, Gibson relented to Mr. Waynick's strong encouragement that he attempt a comeback in late 1994.

Mr. Waynick personally arranged for Gibson to appear on the Grand Ol Opry, followed by an encore visit and an appearance on the nationally televised "Music City Tonight."

Mr. Waynick's relationship with his clients was both genuine and inspirational. When singer-songwriter Ray Stevens was composing one of his famous novelty songs, he needed a name for one of the tune's principal characters, a camel. "I was having a dickens of a time in coming up with a name," Stevens would later tell a television audience. "I was sitting there scratching my head and it dawned on me that I needed a haircut. When I thought of a haircut, it made me think of my barber Clyde."

Hence, a camel named Clyde and a hit record for Stevens and "Ahab the Arab."

Performers who fell on hard times could always count on Mr. Waynick's kindheartedness to see them over the hump. Not only would he not charge them for haircuts, he would often see to it that their families had food on the table.

Such was the character of a man whose love for people was shared with all walks of life. We are fortunate to have been among them.

## OUSTED UNITED WAY CHIEF, AIDES CONVICTED IN CHARITY SCANDAL

The recent conviction of former United Way of America president William Aramony and two of his associates underscores an adage as old as time:

"You can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time. But you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

When Aramony's lavish lifestyle finally caught the attention of a nation responding to his cries for charity, the only person left to fool was himself.

As lucrative as his salary was for running the giant charity organization, it obviously was not enough to support Aramony's indiscrete tastes for limousines, expensive entertainment and the company of beautiful young women.

A jury in Virginia found him guilty of plundering the national charity of nearly \$600,000 to help finance his high living. He was also convicted of 24 other counts of fraud, conspiracy and money laundering. He faces a possible five years in prison and fines yet to be determined by the courts. His two associates also await the sentencing phase of the trial, scheduled for June 14.

The scandal broke in 1991 and the charity has since installed new financial controls and a code of ethics. Annual donations have continued to exceed \$3 billion.

## ***In May: Seat Belt Law Revisited***

**It has been 12 months since the fine schedule for seat belt violations was changed by the state legislature.**

**Has the new fine structure strengthened or weakened the purpose of the law?**

**How has the amendment affected revenue at local and state levels?**

**Have there been drastic drops in enrollment for Buckle-Up classes?**

**There could be more questions than answers as court officials try to analyze the effects of a law that defies accountability.**

## ***Deadline Nears for Walkathon Entries***

One charity that has remained void of scandal is the March of Dimes, which this month is marking its 25th year of WalkAmerica to finance research and development in the fight against birth defects.

Employees planning on participating in the Walkathon on April 30 are reminded to turn in their entry forms and sponsor fees no later than April 27. Entries should be submitted to the chief clerk of each department.

Circuit Court Clerk Richard R. Rooker has asked that non-walking employees consider helping sponsor co-workers who will be walking in the five-mile event.

Entry fee for the event is \$10 and participants collecting \$75 or more will receive a commemorative tee-shirt and cellular telephone.

## It's Down to Business

# For New Judge Casey Moreland

**JUDICIAL PROFILE**

Casey Moreland wasted no time in getting down to business following his appointment to a vacant General Sessions Court judgeship this month.

Moreland was appointed by the Metro Council on a Tuesday night, was sworn into office at noon the next day and began hearing cases the following day.

In between dockets, he fielded questions from the press concerning his thoughts on the appointment process that got him the job. Yes, he was pleased that the council chose him over eight other nominees. No, he wasn't pleased with the selection system itself.

Enough said. Moreland's credentials justified the council's decision and he was ready to get on with the job he had been appointed to do. No training necessary; he already had that from sitting as special judge over the years.

Because his longtime ambition of being a judge had inspired him to volunteer for substitute judicial duty at every opportunity, Moreland had gained valuable experience in every phase of the lower court system.

Little did he know that the most unfortunate of circumstances would bring that experience into focus.

The death of veteran judge Donald Washburn left a vacancy on the nine-division court, requiring immediate attention from the Council. Not the door of opportunity Moreland had anticipated, or relished by any means. But since the vacancy existed, he felt qualified to fill it.

The council agreed, giving him a 25-12 approval vote over the closest of nine nominees, Asst. U. S. Atty. Jimmie Lynn Ramsaur.

At the age of 37, Moreland replaces Gale Robinson as Nashville's youngest judge. But to maintain that distinction, he must sell his credentials to the voters two years in advance of Robinson. While Moreland's appointment is effective only until the county's next general election in August 1996, Robinson and other fellow judges will not face reelection until 1998.

The state legislature has created an additional two divisions of the General Sessions Court beginning in 1998, pending approval by the Metro Council.

Following graduation from Goodpasture Christian School in 1975, Moreland earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin. He prepared himself for a successful private law practice by earning a law degree from the Nashville School of Law. For the past 10 years, he has maintained an office in Printer's Alley.

Moreland's credentials for the judgeship are highlighted by his willingness over the years to serve the courts on a moment's notice and his active role in providing continual legal education at the General Sessions level for the Nashville Bar Association.



**General Sessions Court Judge Casey Moreland**

His wife of 11 years is the former Jackie Garrett. They are the parents of a son, Jay, 9, and a daughter, Kelsey, 5. Both children are involved in the Goodlettsville Dixie Youth Baseball League with their father as coach of each of their teams.

Moreland also is a certified state high school football official and is an active member of the Madison Church of Christ, the Madison Kiwanis Club and the Jere Baxter Lodge and the Al Menah Shrine Temple.

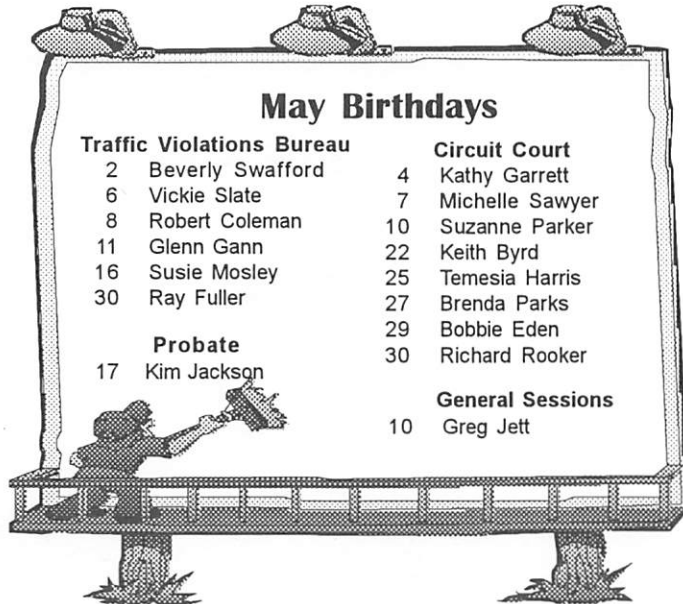
Moreland will occupy office space on the third floor of the courthouse. Judge Mike Mondelli has assumed the office previously occupied by Judge Washburn in the Ben West Building.

### Metro Courthouse Facts

Intricate artistic charm abounds both externally and internally, but is often taken for granted or overlooked in the haste of daily business activity. The more attentive visitor will be immediately drawn to the symbolic works that grace the frontal exterior, whetting the appetite for an entree of other renderings just inside the doorways. Before partaking of the internal feast, there is much for the eye to absorb in the natural light of day. At cornice level are sculpted figures of a lioness's head, a snake and a bison's head, which symbolize Protection, Wisdom and Strength. At a slightly lower level -- just above the massive bronze doors that remain open during business hours -- are three windows etched with the faces of



three great lawgivers, King John of England, Moses, and Justinian. Six figures symbolizing Loyalty, Law, Justice, Security and Wisdom are interestingly visible when the bronze doors are closed. Inside the main lobby, Dean Cornwell murals pay homage to Industry, Agriculture, Commerce and Statesmanship, represented by four heroic figures. Behind Industry and Agriculture is a map of Davidson County and behind Commerce and Statesmanship is a map of 1937 Nashville. The lobby is lighted by a large bronze and glass chandelier, featuring a dozen panels etched with the zodiac symbols.



## May Birthdays

### Traffic Violations Bureau

- 2 Beverly Swafford
- 6 Vickie Slate
- 8 Robert Coleman
- 11 Glenn Gann
- 16 Susie Mosley
- 30 Ray Fuller

### Probate

- 17 Kim Jackson

### Circuit Court

- 4 Kathy Garrett
- 7 Michelle Sawyer
- 10 Suzanne Parker
- 22 Keith Byrd
- 25 Temesia Harris
- 27 Brenda Parks
- 29 Bobbie Eden
- 30 Richard Rooker

### General Sessions

- 10 Greg Jett

## Cheers...

Deputy Circuit Court Clerk **Betty Murray** is watching her step a bit more closely these days after a painful mishap while walking for exercise during her lunch hour recently. That's nothing to cheer about, but the good news is that the accident turned out to be a blessing in disguise. When she submitted her right arm to an x-ray to determine if she had broken it in the fall, she learned that the pain was coming from a bone spur that had been severed by the impact. There were no broken bones and the spur that might have later required surgery to remove had been eliminated. Still, she wouldn't recommend other folks trying the same remedy...Computer operator **Nicole Fielder** has returned to work in the Traffic Violations Bureau following surgery a week earlier...And Criminal Court Deputy Accountant Clerk **Bill Moore** called to explain the big smile he's been sporting. Seems his wife **Carolyn** has been extra pleasant to be around since she was named Employee of the Month by her superiors at Randstad Staffing Services. Wonder if Bill got any of her \$50 prize money?

## ...Tears

Since our last publication, we have said goodbye to four dear friends, three of whom we have attempted to honor on the previous pages...We have chosen to share our thoughts about those individuals out of respect for their contributions to the government and our long and valued association with them. To the surviving family members of those special individuals, we extend our deepest sympathy. We also are deeply saddened by the passing of **Mr. James R. Wyatt Sr.**, father of **Criminal Court Judge J. Randall Wyatt**. Mr. Wyatt died of congestive heart failure earlier this month at St. Thomas Hospital. He was a retired attorney with the Chicago Title Insurance Co., who remained active in Senior Citizen and Masonic activities to the very end. He shall be sorely missed.

# Rooker Report

Published by the Davidson County Circuit Court Clerk's Office  
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Established by **George L. Rooker (1929-1993)**,  
(Circuit Court Clerk, 1968-1993)

**Richard R. Rooker** ..... Circuit Court Clerk  
**Gene Baker** ..... Editor

## DATA BANK

### Statistics compiled for the month of March

#### Case Information

##### Circuit Court

New Civil Cases Filed .....	347
Civil Cases Concluded .....	433
New Divorce Cases Filed .....	368
Divorce Cases Closed .....	303

##### General Sessions Civil

New Cases Filed .....	3,353
Executions Issued .....	2,696
Judgments Collected .....	\$554,727

##### Probate Court

New Cases Filed .....	206
Cases Closed .....	109
Cases Retired .....	4

##### Traffic Violations

Moving Citations .....	21,055
Parking Violations .....	11,844
Total Fines Collected .....	\$339,412
Nullifications .....	1,883
Nullification Fees Collected .....	\$16,947

### Circuit Court Jury Trial Verdicts

#### Week of February 27

Case	Type	Court	Verdict
93C-2205	Medical Malpractice	6th	Defendant
92C-1945	Slip/Fall	3rd	Defendant
92C-3139	Auto Accident	5th	Defendant
93C-3478	Auto Accident	1st (P)	\$8,500

#### Week of March 6

Case	Type	Court	Verdict
92C-1816	Auto Accident	1st (P)	\$44,607
92C-2124	Auto Accident	2nd (P)	\$100,000
94C-923	Consumer Contract	5th (P)	\$10,280
93C-3608	Dental Malpractice	6th	Defendant

#### Week of March 20

Case	Type	Court	Verdict
93C-3305	Auto Accident	1st (P)	\$5,000
94C-466	Auto Accident	6th (P)	\$4,561
93C-762	Auto Accident	2nd (P)	\$6,301
92C-2838	Auto Accident	1st (P)	\$10,000

#### Week of March 27

Case	Type	Court	Verdict
94C-394	Auto Accident	6th (P)	\$10,000
94C-4106	Contract	1st (P)	\$500
91C-356	Auto Accident	2nd	Defendant
94C-564	Auto Accident	5th (P)	\$10,500
93C-1550	Auto Accident	3rd (P)	\$9,000

### Memorial Day Next Holiday Closing

All government offices will be closed on Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.

Our offices will re-open on Tuesday, May 30.

It will be the last holiday closing until Independence Day on Tuesday, July 4.