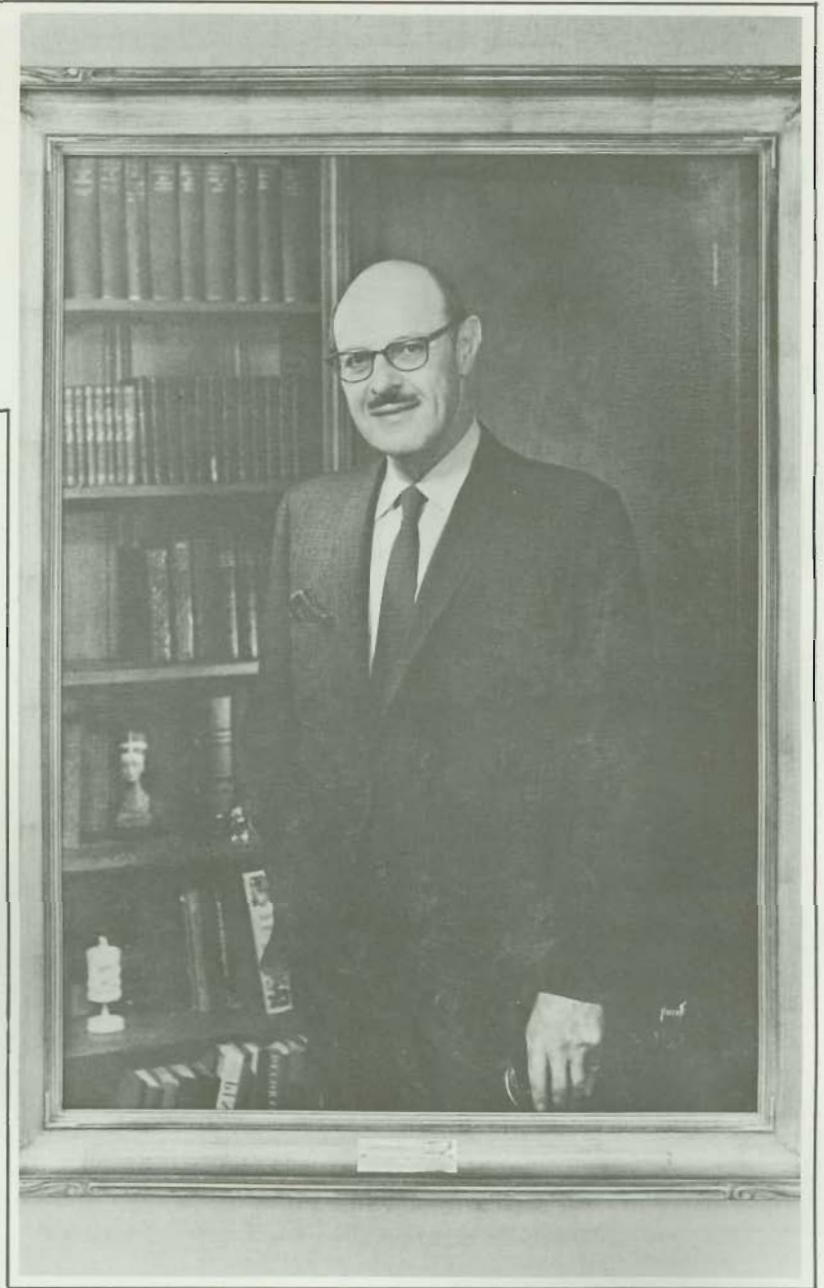


"Frank Constangy's career as a lawyer was the kind that the faculty of this Law School desires for each of its graduates."

In addressing these remarks to friends at the unveiling of Mr. Constangy's portrait last spring Dean J. Ralph Beaird was not only singling out an alumnus for excellence in the practice of law, he was recognizing a man whose career spanned 40 years of threefold accomplishments: labor relations expert, government advisor, and industry builder.

*alumnus
feature:*

CONSTANGY



Frank Alan Constangy, Atlanta attorney and Georgia law graduate of 1930, was nationally recognized in his role as advisor to management in labor-employer problems. Until his death in April, 1971, he was senior partner of the Atlanta law firm of Constangy and Prowell - one of the chief firms in the country which specializes in labor relations law. Mr. Constangy gave the 17-member firm that distinction, for he was called upon to appear on behalf of industrial employers in a number of decisive cases and claims before the National Labor Relations Board, several Circuit Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Trade and industrial associations trusted his judgment, and Congressional committees listened closely to his testimony on major legislative proposals. They

had reason to label him an authority, for the 6 foot lawyer with the resonant courtroom voice was also a former federal regional attorney who served with the founding fathers of labor relations legislation as it exists today. And much of it originated in gearing the American work force for World War II. In 1942-44 he was regional director of operations for the War Manpower Commission in the Southeast.

His government service had begun eight years earlier when he was called from a budding law practice in Atlanta to assist in drafting legal provisions for the first Social Security Act. From this service as southeast regional attorney for the resulting Social Security Board, Constangy became regional attorney for the Federal Security Agency.

These years of high-level activity did not escape the notice of Atlantans who understood little of the economic changeover the country was experiencing.

Atlanta Constitution columnist Ralph McGill described how the atomic bomb project reached Atlanta:

Hervey Allen, historical novelist, was head of information department of the Southeast War Manpower Board. Dr. Bowman Ashe, who later became president of the University of Miami, and Frank Constangy, fellow board members, were with him when he received a ticker tape message from Washington which said: "Hire 160,000 men, Manhattan project, at once." Thinking it was a typographical error and that they needed 160 men for a laundry project, Constangy and Allen called the department head and were met with dead silence when they asked what was the Manhattan Project. But the 160,000 figure was real, even if they didn't know its purpose. So Constangy, Allen and Ashe drummed up the labor force which constructed the Oak Ridge Atomic Research Center out of 50 square miles of Tennessee woods.

Constangy was also called upon to produce telephones for the project. With some difficulty in communicating to the company that he immediately needed 18,000 and not 18 phones, he produced them in record time.

Frank Constangy could follow-through when wartime crisis called for it, and the post-war Merit Award presented by President Truman in 1946 proved the value of his services.

His work with the Social Security Board kept him in Birmingham, Alabama for a year, but the rest of his government work and law practice radiated from his native Atlanta.

He was chairman of the industry members of the Atlanta Wage Stabilization Board and the Atlanta Regional War Labor Board in 1945-46, and was named to the advisory council of the Georgia Department of Labor in 1946.

What was the background of this tireless manager who held multiple commission posts in order to organize and expedite manpower necessary for a war effort?

He was a manufacturer's son, born in Atlanta February 23, 1911 and educated in the public schools there. He completed the A.B. degree, cum laude, in liberal arts in the University of Georgia's class of 1929, where he debated to the top of prestigious literary societies and was named to Omicron Delta Kappa, Gridiron, and Biftad as well.

He had informed his family that he planned to study law because he was "interested in the complications in the lives of others."

He wasted little time in acquiring the formal training for his chosen occupation. His tenure at the Lumpkin Law School was only one year before he graduated with the LL.B. degree and was prepared to take the Georgia Bar Examination at the age of nineteen. Bar examiners must have raised their eyebrows at the young prodigy, because an act of the Georgia legislature was necessary to waive the minimum age requirements.

In his final weeks of law school, amid exams and bar review, he found time to enter and win the Citizens and Southern Bank Will-Drafting Contest. The motive for this accomplishment was a little more than self pride. The \$25.00 prize was a financial boost for his upcoming wedding to Eleanor Smullyan in the fall of 1931.

The blue-eyed Miss Smullyan, Constangy's sweetheart from high school, was told by her bridegroom that she had one great responsibility in their marriage - to always look as beautiful as she was then, and he would handle the business matters. She kept the bargain, for she is at present an attractive, poised lady with sparkling conversation who stays active entertaining friends, working in her greenhouse or with animal care projects, and enjoying family activities with her daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren.

She keeps their home alive with his memories. "We had a wonderful life," she smiled in conversation. "He was a constant delight and surprise. . . . I lived with him 39½ years and he could never be tiresome or boring. . . . he had charisma."

He also possessed great diplomacy, added their daughter Carolyn, now Mrs. Richard S. Wasser of Atlanta. "He had the ability to talk with rather than talk to" parties whose problems he was attempting to solve, she observed. "He never painted a man into a corner. He fought hard for his clients, but was always fair and respectful to his adversaries."

This manner and attitude won Frank Constangy the cooperation of traditional opponents in labor unions. He was responsive to needs of labor: "Unions have their place - I'm just against their unfair demands." Rather than use tactics to keep a union from forming, he would give advice to management on how to answer workers' needs in substitution of union bargaining.

Problem solving, like procuring 18,000 telephones, was something Constangy knew how to do, and industrial management had problems to solve.

One outgrowth of war labor demands was the establishment of the Industry Advisory Council in 1944. This organization's membership consisted of representatives from all the leading industrial companies in the Southeast who joined together to protect the interests of management before the War Labor Board. Constangy was the council's first general counsel and executive director, and his alignment with management dates from that time. His case work began to move from general practice to labor law while he was serving as southeast regional attorney for the Federal Security Administration in 1941-42.

Constangy had returned to private law practice again after wartime service before he began to help develop the industry he was to see grow into one of the most prominent in Georgia - textiles.

He was instrumental in the formation of several successful companies who moved their operations from various locations in traditionally textile centers in the Northeast to new plants in Georgia, North Carolina and Alabama. He not only persuaded the plant managements

of the more favorable climate to be found in the South, he also helped with the transitional problems of moving large industry into small communities with no skilled workers. He gave practical as well as legal advice as to the customs and mores of the towns' populations, and suggested training programs which would aid both the workers and management.

Much of the strength of the textile industry's foothold in the South was based in its trade associations. Constangy assisted in the formation of the original Tufted Textile Manufacturers' Association, founded when the carpet industry was in its infancy, and when tufting was adapted as a new method of producing carpet. The TTMA merged with the Carpet Institute and is now known as the Carpet and Rug Institute. It's membership included virtually all of the manufacturers of carpeting and related materials. He was in great demand as a public speaker before management conferences, and was very active in the state textile manufacturer's associations of Georgia, North Carolina and Alabama. His law firm has as its clientele the majority of large mills in these states.

Constangy and Prowell was established in 1950 after Constangy had practiced on his own for four years. His first business association after becoming a member of the bar was with the Atlanta firm of Walker, Kilbride and Constangy.

Building a large labor law firm with Washington offices and a national reputation in twenty years seemingly left little time for civic and professional association. To the contrary, Constangy served as chairman of the Labor Relations Law Section of the American Bar Association, chairman of the board of review of Georgia Employment Security Agency, and a member of the Georgia Commission on Aging.

Atlanta's cultural and social life did not pass by the active Constangys. They both enjoyed opera and art, but Constangy was never a patron for patron's sake. Once, while touring a prestigious exhibit of ultra-modern pieces, he stopped at a painting of a white dot on a large solid black canvas. Noting the \$2,000 price tag, he commented to nearby connoisseurs: "That fellow must have said to himself, 'I think I will paint this for suckers'."

Likewise, he enjoyed stimulating conversation but "became impatient with frivolous social intercourse." Mrs. Constangy knew him well. Carolyn added that he was "mildly intolerant of stupidity."

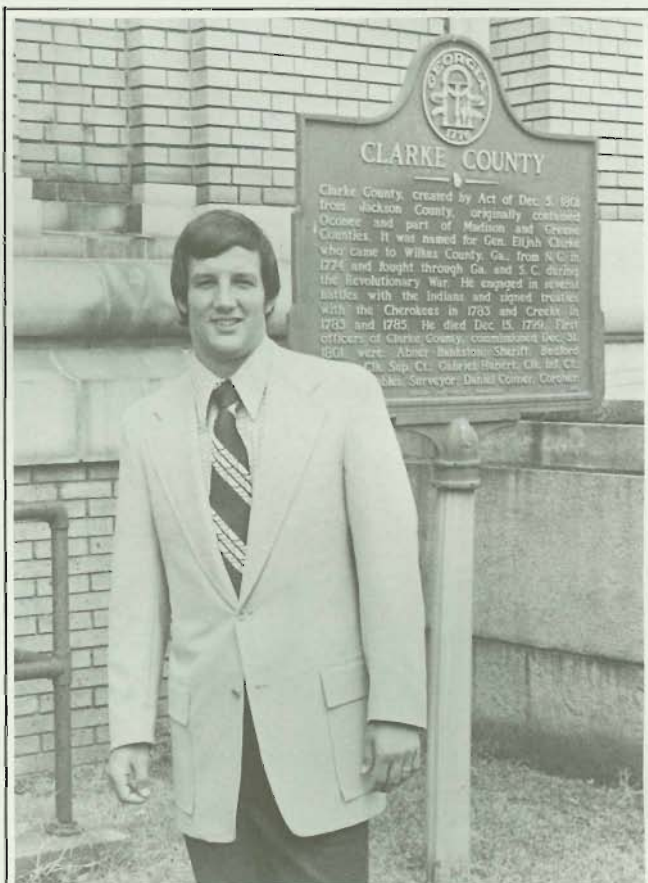
Perhaps this was because of his own gift of acute intelligence. "He had a most unusual mind." Mrs. Constangy was always awed by it. "He was an avid reader with an ingrained curiosity to know completely." Upon reviewing his grandsons' new math, it bothered him to be unfamiliar with the concepts so he went out and bought some textbooks to study them with the boys.

His associates knew him as a solution finder, too. Mrs. Kathryn S. James, member of the firm, said "He was a very compassionate and understanding gentleman, who always had time to listen to the problems of

his co-workers and employees; not only to just listen to the problem, but to do everything possible to help solve it. He was generous to all. He inspired people - he had the gift of making an accomplishment that might be achieved by an individual become his most important point of reference."

The Frank A. Constangy Scholarship Fund was established at the University of Georgia Law School in the summer of 1972. Income from the fund, which is administered through the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, will be used to award tuition scholarships to entering law students who qualify on the basis of financial need and academic ability and achievement.

The scholarship fund is open to anyone who wishes to make additional memorial contributions.



Thomas A. Nash, Jr. has been named the first Constangy Scholar. A University of Georgia graduate of 1972, Tom began classes this fall after a year of military service. A native of Washington, Georgia, Tom was an outstanding varsity football player who was also one of the highest honor graduates in the history of the team. With an A.B. degree in economics and a high B-plus grade average, he comes to the Georgia Law School as an example of the highly qualified freshman which the School can attract through adequate scholarship assistance.