

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
EASTERN DISTRICT

Proceedings on the Occasion of the Presentation to  
the Supreme Court of a Portrait of the  
HONORABLE MARION D. PATTERSON

Philadelphia, Pa., November 16, 1953

CHIEF JUSTICE STERN: The Court recognizes the Honorable John M. Klepser, President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Blair County.

JUDGE KLEPSE: May it please the Court: As President Judge of the several courts of Blair County, of which the late esteemed Mr. Justice MARION D. PATTERSON was one of my predecessors, may I move the Court for permission to present and introduce Mr. Mitchell MacCartney, who is President of the Blair County Bar Association, who desires to make the presentation formally to your Honorable Court of a portrait of the late Justice PATTERSON, on behalf of the members of the Blair County Bar.

CHIEF JUSTICE STERN: Mr. MacCartney.

MR. MACCARTNEY: May it please the Court: I appear here this morning as President of the Blair County Bar Association, heading a delegation of Blair County lawyers accompanying Judge Klepser to this Court for the purpose of presenting an oil portrait of the late Justice PATTERSON.

Three Blair Countians have served on this Court. One hundred years ago, Jeremiah S. Black was its

Chief Justice; across the turn of the century, Justice John Dean served this Court for some twenty years, and on January 2, 1940, MARION DEAN PATTERSON was inducted into office and served a few days longer than ten years.

Justice PATTERSON was born on a farm in Blair County. Before his admission to practice at the Blair County Bar in 1904, he was a merchant and a teacher. After seven years of practice, he was elected District Attorney and served with great distinction in that office for a period of sixteen consecutive years. In the fall of the sixteenth year of this service he was elected judge of the several courts of Blair County. He served in that capacity, as the only judge, for twelve years, at the end of which time he came to this Court. He brought to this Court from that experience a knowledge of human beings and their problems. He came here not only well acquainted with all the ancient landmarks of the law, but he brought with him also a rare discernment of the imponderables which are inherent in the relationship of people to their laws and was possessed of the faculty to see the ultimate question which often lay behind and was obscured by many other questions and issues of law. There is an old north country saying to the effect that, "we should keep our fingers on the near things and our eyes on the far things", which we think illustrates the judicial perception which Justice PATTERSON possessed.

We are mindful of the limitations of time imposed upon this Court by the pressure of official business, so we will conclude our remarks at this point, recalling to mind the beautiful tributes paid to Justice PATTERSON at his memorial service, and in particular, the eulogy which Chief Justice Maxey delivered on the day of his own death.

If the Court please, at this time, therefore, in the presence of the gracious wife of the late Justice PATTERSON, his son, Marion Dean Patterson, Jr., who is a practicing attorney at our Bar and who is so like his father in many respects, his daughter and other members of the family, I now present to this Court a portrait by Harry D. Moskovitz, of the late Justice PATTERSON, for traditional hanging with portraits of those Justices of this Court who have preceded him in death.

CHIEF JUSTICE STERN: Thank you, Mr. MacCartney. The eloquent words of Chief Justice Maxey to which you refer, and your own very clear and forceful presentation, certainly did not overstate the virtues and the merits of the man they portrayed.

It was my great privilege to be associated with Justice PATTERSON during the entire ten years he was a member of this Court. Justice Allen Stearne was his colleague, I believe, for seven years and Justice Jones for five, and I feel sure they will both agree with me when I say that no one who ever sat with us on this bench was more beloved by his colleagues than he. He was so even-tempered, so kind of heart, so gentle of manner, that even in the earnest debates of the conference room he never entertained any feeling of animosity or rancor against anyone, nor ever provoked such a feeling on the part of those with whom he may have differed in opinion. He was indeed a gentleman in all that that word implies. His attractive personality, his buoyancy of spirit, made him a delightful companion in every relationship of life. That he was a good appellate court judge was due largely to his acuteness of mind, his conscientious sense of responsibility and his untiring industry. But he was not merely a good judge, he was in all respects a good citizen, with

a long and commendable career of fine public service. No one knew his State and all its inhabitants better than he, and especially he loved his own community in Blair County, just as the people of that community loved and honored him.

Mr. MacCartney, and Judge Klepser, we gratefully receive this portrait. Hung on our walls it will serve as a permanent reminder of the distinguished jurist who, for ten happy and productive years, graced the bench of this Court,—our former colleague and dear friend, the Honorable MARION D. PATTERSON.