

ATTORNEY

profile

By: *Bill Vines*

ARTHUR G. "BUD" SEYMOUR

1996 RECIPIENT OF GOVERNOR'S AWARD

A standing ovation was given for Arthur G. "Bud" Seymour at the Annual Golden Gavel Award when he was presented the Governor's Award. Bud Seymour received the award flanked by his son, Arthur Seymour, Jr. and his wife of 52 years, Evelyn.

The Governor's Award is the highest award of the Knoxville Bar Association and considers both service as an attorney and service to the community. A committee makes recommendations and the recipient is selected by the elected Board of Governors. A permanent plaque at the Knox County Courthouse records the name of each annual recipient.

Bud Seymour is a Knoxville native whose father was a highly respected lawyer in Knoxville and one of the founders of Frantz, McConnell and Seymour in 1913. Bud obtained his law degree from the University of Tennessee in 1941. He was already a leader while in college and served as President of the student body at the University of Tennessee and also as an officer in his fraternity. He entered the service in World War II and rose to Major in the Army Air Corps.

Following the war, he returned to Knoxville and entered the private practice of law with Frantz, McConnell and Seymour where he has continued to practice for over 50 years. He continues to practice every day.

In this time of specialization, it is hard to imagine someone talented enough to handle all aspects of the law. However, those of us who have been around for "a few years" know that Bud was very active as a trial attorney. I very well remember one of my partners stating, following the conclusion of a major matter involving many millions of dollars in fire loss, that they have never been so impressed with an attorney as with the experience of working with Bud Seymour.

At the same time, however, Bud Seymour was active in

the tax and estate practice and anti-trust matters. Also, he was working in mergers and acquisitions. He represented the seller in a major transaction involving the sale of zinc mines. It was a complicated matter, extending over lengthy negotiations. When it was all over, the purchaser is reported to have said, "there is one more thing. We'd like your lawyer." Since that time, the firm has continued to represent the mining interest.

Bud Seymour was instrumental in setting up the Knoxville Transit Authority and has been its only attorney in its existence. He has been selected in the publication "Best Lawyers in the Area of Corporate Law" for many years. He served as Trustee for Southern Industrial Banking, and all of us know the complicated litigation that resulted therefrom.

His community service includes the Voluntary Ministry Center, Sons of the Revolution, and he has been a devoted member of St. John's Cathedral. Bud has served in almost every lay capacity possible and served as Chancellor for the Diocese of the State of

Tennessee for many years. He has been described as the church's "wise man".

Interestingly, he was instrumental in starting the Racquet Club and has been a devoted tennis player. Others describe him as "come back player." It may not be very pretty but the ball always "comes back".

Bud has foremost been a family man. He and Evelyn have been married 52 years and have four grown children and six grandchildren. His son, Arthur Seymour, Jr., continues the family tradition.

The award is presented to Bud Seymour not necessarily for what he has done, but for how he has done it. He is a remarkable talent with high professionalism and very deserving of the highest award of the Knoxville Bar Association.

