

Well-known Carlisle attorney dies

By Jeff Swiatek Staff Writer.

The man Jim Thorpe called "the toughest player I ever played against" died Monday.

Hyman Goldstein, a Carlisle attorney for 60 years, was 91. He had been ill after fracturing his hip.

been ill after fracturing his hip,
Called a "people's lawyer" by an
acquaintance, Goldstein first left his
mark in Carlisle on the football field.
He quarterbacked Dickinson teams
that tangled with such powerful rivals
as the Carlisle Indian School.

At 155 pounds and 5 feet 10, Goldstein was small as an athlete, said Benjamin James, former Dickinson football coach. He owed his prowess to "his determination and will and his speed."

In a biography, Jim Thorpe is quoted saying Goldstein "could run like a deer and dodge like a rabbit. He was the trickiest player I ever saw." After graduating from Dickinson College in 1912 and Dickinson School of Law three years later, Goldstein played minor league baseball. He began practicing law in Carlisle in 1921, retiring in the same town in 1981.

Goldstein — who never took on a law partner — gained a reputation for "representing ordinary folk in difficulty," said William Wilks, dean of Dickinson School of Law. "He was not a silk-stockinged lawyer."

The son of a Russian immigrant, he is remembered for representing Bessie Jones, owner of a Carlisle brothel charged in the 1950s with failure to pay back taxes.

"In defending her, he likened her to a Carlisle institution," said Roger Steck, executive director of Cumberland County Historical Society. "He said she was as respected as Dickinson College and the law school." Wilks said Goldstein's defense of the brothel keeper "wasn't any kind of high point in his career. It symbolizes he represented people who maybe would not be favored clients of many lawyers."

Goldstein and his wife, Edna, were married by Dale F. Shughart, now president judge of Cumberland County Court of Common Pleas.

"He asked me to do something and I did it. It was the first marriage I performed as judge," said Shughart.

Goldstein often gave legal help free to the poor, Shughart said. He was 'in effect a public defender' in the days when public defenders didn't officially exist, the judge said.

"It was part of his nature to do that sort of thing," Shughart said. "The community has lost a very

"The community has lost a very able citizen. The bar has lost a good lawyer and I have lost a very good friend," Shughart said.



Hyman Goldstein

Hyman Goldstein obit l

Clipped By:



jackmo77 Tue, Jan 9, 2018

Newspapers™