

September 2003



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## 2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

Have you missed me? It is tough filling up the space when the conferences are a year and a half apart. The conference is the real reason for this newsletter. It is as big a reminder as I can think of. Asheville, North Carolina, The Grove Park Inn, the time of year, the total setting. I do not imagine there is a prettier place around. The dates are Thursday August 26, 2004 through Sunday August 29, 2004. Please consider making your reservations with the hotel as soon as possible. It makes things much easier when we get our counts in early. Get on the internet and go to [www.nafusa.org](http://www.nafusa.org) and click on the Asheville link on the home page and check out all the wonderful things there are to do in Asheville and the surrounding area. The Biltmore Estate, house, gardens and winery tops the list. The hotel's reservation phone number is (828) 252-2711. Be sure to identify yourself as a part of the NAFUSA Conference and the dates you expect to be there.

**ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**AUGUST 26-29, 2004**

The Officers and Directors of NAFUSA will be holding their mid-year meeting in Chicago the second weekend in October this year (October 10th and 11th). There is a bunch of business to deal with and if any of you have any suggestions or concerns please let this office or a board member know before these October dates. The Bears are not at home that weekend.

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## NAFUSA MEMBERS AND DUES UPDATE

During the 2003 year we had approximately 400 members on our website, we had only 172 members pay their dues. We must stress that your 2003 dues be paid as soon as possible, so things like the website may be maintained. A lot of the problem may be bad addresses. Please go to [www.nafusa.org](http://www.nafusa.org) and update your information, addresses, etc. It gets expensive sending mail to an existing address and it being returned. NAFUSA appreciates it.

# NAFUSA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let me take this time and space to apprise you of all the bad news. Our dear friend W.H. "Sonny" Dillahunty, E.D. of Arkansas 1988-1993, passed away in early August. In the world of NAFUSA Sonny was my mentor and promoter. (See below left) He was an important and consistent contributor to our organization. We will miss him dearly. Our thoughts are with his lovely wife Emma. She pitched in equally along the road.

We belatedly received notice of the passing of Peter Mills, U.S. Attorney for Maine for 16 years. First under President Eisenhower and later under President's Nixon and Ford (see below right).

**Former judge, 'showman in court,' 'Sonny' Dillahunty dies**

BY CASEY MUNCK  
ARLINGTON HERALD-EXAMINER



Dillahunty, a high school dropout and levee builder's son, graduated from the University of Arkansas and from law school within four years of getting out of the U.S. Army, said his daughter, Sharon Dillahunty of Little Rock. Dillahunty practiced law in West Memphis, about 45 miles from his hometown of Osceola. He ran for city attorney and was re-elected five times.

After U.S. Sen. John McClellan nominated him for the U.S. attorney's post, Dillahunty suffered a heart attack a few months into the job. A tireless workaholic, Dillahunty arrived at his office at 6 a.m. with a sack lunch, shunning dining invitations from other lawyers.

"He read every piece of mail that came in and would write comments on top of the documents," said the first assistant to the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District, Sandra Cherry, who once worked for Dillahunty. "He knew every case and knew everything that was going on in every case. He was a completely hands-on leader."

After a six-month stint in Washington with the Small Business Administration, Dillahunty opened a private practice and handled a few high-profile cases, and was made a special prosecuting attorney in the case of lawyer Bill McCArthur, accused of

courtroom. Dillahunty left the federal prosecutor's post in 1979 after serving 12 years under Presidents Johnson, Nixon, Ford and Carter.

Unafraid to prosecute county judges, state senators, lawyers and businessmen, Dillahunty cut a swath through Arkansas courtrooms.

"He was a showman in court," said Paul James, a Little Rock lawyer and longtime friend of Dillahunty's. "He was a humane detective. He could tell if someone was telling the truth or not by their demeanor. He had that innate ability."

Known for his candid commentary and blunt language in the courtroom, Dillahunty was a judge who served as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas under four presidents and of conservative heart fathers Saturday morning at his Little Rock home.

He was 78 and had been ill with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease for the past few years, his family said.


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**S. Peter Mills Jr.**

FARMINGTON — Peter Mills, 90, died Saturday, Sept. 22, 2001, at his High Street home in the care of his family and friends with grateful assistance from the local hospice program.

Born in Farmington, Aug. 26, 1911, the son of Sumner P. and Flora A.P. Mills, he graduated from Farmington High School, class of 1929, Hebron Academy, class of 1930 and Colby College, class of 1934. Mills also earned a law degree from Boston University in 1937.

His passion for justice and public service was a prominent characteristic throughout his career. Mills was elected to five terms in the Maine Legislature, including three in the House (1938, 1940 and 1946), where he was Majority Floor Leader from 1947-48. He was elected state senator in 1966 and 1968.



1969 photo

Mills also served a record 16 years as U.S. attorney for Maine in the Eisenhower administration from 1953-1961 and later under Presidents Nixon and Ford from 1969-1977.

As a 30-year-old state representative at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941, he relinquished his seat to go on active duty in the Navy. As a gunnery officer aboard a carrier escort, his ship took the first Kamikaze attack of the war and helped win the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in world history. After the war he continued service in the reserves, became commander of the reserve unit in South Portland and retired with the rank of captain.

The high point of his public career came in the late 1960s with his service in the Maine State Senate and subsequent return to the attorney's profession. It was in this era that he achieved three major accomplishments.

In 1969, he sponsored a law that banned ethnic and racial discrimination by all state liquor and food licensees, thus ending anti-Semitic practices at a prominent Portland professional club and leading to the elimination of racial discrimination clauses from the charter of a national service club.

"I want it on my tombstone, because of this outrage I had and feel even now when I think about it," he said vehemently during a 1993 interview.

It was also during Mills' Senate service that consumer loan legislation passed under his leadership. These new laws curbed high interest rates, the practice of "flipping," or unlimited loan renewals, and other abuses in the consumer credit field practiced by small loan companies then doing business in Maine. Within half dozen years, these companies were gone from the state and their lending functions supplanted by more consumer-friendly credit unions and banks.

As U.S. attorney in 1970, he brought a federal lawsuit that ended log drives on Maine's major rivers, an achievement Mills would point to with pride.

**Dillahunty**

Continued from Page 1B  
of conspiring to kill his wife.

In 1977, he got to wear the black robe he'd always wanted when he was appointed Pulaski County Chancery judge. Dillahunty was tough on child support haggards, telling them to bring one of two things: "money or a toothbrush."

In 1999, he was appointed special justice for the Arkansas Supreme Court and was appointed special member and chairman of the Arkansas State Police Commission.

"Sonny taught a generation of young Arkansas trial lawyers how they should act and how to be prepared," said U.S. District Judge Robert Dawson. "He handled all cases the same whether they were small or large. He was a tireless worker."

*Our hearts go out to the families*



*of these honorable members!  
NAFUSA remembers*

NAFUSA member William B. Bantz, E.D. of Washington 1981-1989, also passed a way in January of 2000. I apologize for the late notices but our letters seeking dues have rustled the bushes.

I sadly report the death of our friend and colleague Michael Bradford, E.D. of Texas, 1994-2001. Sad circumstances for a good guy. Mike made all our conferences and he will be dearly missed. Our friend Ron Ederer can fill you in. Mike was a Federal Magistrate and a District Court Judge. In 2000 he received the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service and earlier headed up the Justice Department's investigation of the "Waco/Branch Davidian" case.

## IN THE NEWS

Our friend Peter Stone, Delaware 1969-1972, is the new Deputy Insurance Commissioner for the State of Delaware (302-739-4251). Congratulations!

Board member Richard Bennett, of Maryland 1991-1993, is now a District Court Judge. Another round of applause. His position on NAFUSA's Board of Directors has been graciously filled by our pal and former NAFUSA President John Clark, W.D. of Texas 1975-1977. Who's better than John?

A. Bates Butler III, District of Arizona 1980-1981, Bates to those who know him has joined the firm and is Director of Fennemore Craig in Tucson, Arizona (520-879-6804). "A History to Leverage"—I like it.

## IN THE NEWS CONT.

Congratulations to Mike McKay, W.D. of Washington 1989-1993, recently appointed to the board of directors of the Legal Services Corporation. A group I have a little familiarity with.

Our new President Margaret Person Currin, E.D. of North Carolina 1989-1993 and Justice Robert Edmunds, M.D. of North Carolina 1986-1992 were elected to Vice Presidential positions of the North Carolina Bar Association for one year terms in June.

I am going to introduce something new, and why not? Our organization is jam packed with all kinds of talent. How many times has someone over the years said to you, "you ought to write a book". They are usually referring to your professional experiences. But we do have folks who do write books— real books, novels and such. One of our own is such a novelist and recently sent me his latest contribution to the world of literature. Stan Pottinger, Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice 1973-1977. He sent it to the right guy. I read his kind of stuff as often as I can. Stick a little swastika up in the corner of the cover page and I'll buy. Not anymore as far as Mr. Pottinger is concerned, I'll be looking for his name. "The Last Nazi" is a barn burner. My kind of story. If you enjoy the likes of Ludlam, Jack Higgins, Ken Follett, Forsyth and Maclean you'll love this one. The "Boys from Brazil's" Ira Levin would be envious. Move over Dr. Lecter, Dr. Adalwolf is on the scene. Four stars! Now maybe I can get some of the rest of you to send me books you have written. John Clark, I know you've penned a couple. Maybe Stan would like me to review his other two books.

I am having dinner tonight, September 16, with the Clerk of the United States Supreme Court, The Honorable General William K. Suter. He is in town for a swearing in ceremony and a look-see at our new Federal Court House, the Lloyd D. George building.

### **2004 Annual Conference 2004 Asheville, North Carolina cont.**

We are already lining up some exceptional speakers for the Asheville conference. Our friend Leon Friedman will return with his unique insight and explanations of what goes on at the U.S. Supreme Court. Judge Bob Edmunds brings NAFUSA Professor John Conley of the University of North Carolina School of Law. (Leon comes from Hoffstra Law School). Professor Conley has something new and wonderful for all of us. "The Application of Social Sciences to Litigation". Thanks Mr. Justice.

Time for some great news. President Currin has arranged for Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, Campbell University to be the nominal sponsor of our CLE Program.

Mark Calloway, W.D. of North Carolina 1993-2001 of the firm of Alston & Bird, LLP, 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000, Charlotte, NC, ((704) 444-1111) has pulled off a major coup. His firm will contribute \$5000.00 to help defray the cost of the Asheville conference. The check is not in the mail, it's cashed and in our NAFUSA account. We're truly grateful and looking forward to Mark's presence in Asheville.

Not to be out done (never are) Past President Bill Robertson, District of New Jersey 1980-1981, Robertson, Freilich, Bruno & Cohen, LLC, One Riverfront Plaza, Floor 4, Newark, New Jersey 07102, ((973) 993-1848) continues their generosity to our organization. Bill is the guiding influence, but you all knew that anyway. The firm again pledges \$5000.00.

Are all you of mighty firms all paying attention to these hefty contributions. Clients, firms, in-laws and ex-wives are all viable targets.

**Mark Your Calendars**  
**Asheville, North Carolina August 26 - 29, 2004**

September 2003

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Asheville,  
North Carolina

August 26-29, 2004

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