

Snierson Appeals Court Ruling On Last Will of Grace Metalious

July 15, 1964

Atty. Berard I. Snierson July 8th, filed in probate court an appeal from the June 29 decision of Judge Carroll W. Stafford, proving the deathbed will of Author Grace Metalious.

The will, made in a Boston hospital the day before Mrs. Metalious died, named British journalist John Rees as sole beneficiary. Her estate has since been appraised at \$127,372.

At the June 29 hearing Judge Stafford allowed the petition to prove the will in solemn form

after witnesses to Mrs. Metalious' signature had testified she appeared to be competent.

Atty. Snierson, acting in his capacity as guardian ad litem for Mrs. Metalious' three minor children, Mrs. Marsha Metalious Dupuis, Christopher and Cynthia Metalious, challenges the deathbed will on six points.

Atty. Snierson alleges Mrs. Metalious suffered from an unsound mind to the extent she lacked capacity to execute a will on Feb. 24; that she suffered from physi-

cal disease and her mind was so affected by treatment therefore that she lacked "testimentary capacity; That she was induced by undue influence of John Rees "by himself and through others", to make the will; that she was mortally ill at the time and greatly weakened in body and mind; that the execution of the will was obtained by fraud; and that it is invalid as to the entire residuary gift to Rees since Mrs. Metalious executed it under a mistake as to

(Continued on Page 15)

Probate Court Asked to Declare Metalious Estate Insolvent

Nov. 18 1964

(Continued from Page One)

A petition asking that the estate of Grace Metalious, author of Peyton Place, be declared insolvent has been filed in Probate Court by Atty. John F. Cremens of Boston and Atty. John S. Holland of Bedford, executor and administrator with will annexed respectively. The hearing before Judge Carroll W. Stafford will be held Nov. 24.

Atty. Holland wrote the court because of income taxes due "in excess of \$31,000" for the year ending Dec. 31, 1963 and "other outstanding liabilities including debts and taxes which appear to exceed any expectable amount the estate can anticipate receiving" he believed it was for the best interests of all concerned that the estate should be administered as insolvent. He suggested no one for commissioner of insolvency saying he preferred to leave the

(Continued from Page Twenty)

appointment to the court.

Inventory Figures

The inventory of the Metalious estate, filed several months ago by the appraisors, Conrad Snow, Stewart Lamprey and Edwin Chertok, listed real estate in Gilmanston valued at \$25,750 and personal property amounting to \$101,622.

One substantial asset listed was royalties of \$56,700 from 20th Century Fox, due Jan. 1, 1965.

Cabin Colony Mortgaged

The appraisors placed no value on the Peyton Place cabin colony on Weirs Blvd., stating it is subject to a mortgage indebtedness of \$150,000 and there are other outstanding obligations of \$10,000. They also listed 17 shares of Peyton Place, Inc. (the entire issue) as having no value.

Mrs. Metalious died last February in Boston. In her deathbed will she left her entire estate to John Rees, British writer and an acquaintance of only a few months. The will was probated but an appeal has been entered in behalf of the three children, Marsha Metalious Dupuis, 20, Christopher "Mike", 17, and Cynthia, 13. Trial of their appeal is not expected to be held at the current Superior Court session.

The local firm of Snierson & Chandler represents the Metalious children in the case. Atty. Peter Makris appears for their father, George Metalious.

Metalious Will . . .

(Continued from Page 10)

its meaning and effect.

An earlier will, executed in 1958, left her entire estate in trust to the three children and designated Atty. Snierson as trustee and George Metalious, father of the children, as guardian.

Rees reportedly renounced his claim under the deathbed will but it is understood he imposed certain conditions and there were questions raised at the June 29 probate hearing whether the statement produced was in proper form.

Atty. Snierson said he will ask for a jury trial and expects his appeal will be tried in Belknap County Superior Court at the October term.