

Judge Alan Bowie, Of Prince Georges

Judge Alan Bowie, whose career as a lawyer, State's Attorney and Trial Magistrate spanned more than a half century in Prince Georges County, died Saturday of cancer at his farm in Brandywine, Md.

Although in recent years the 85-year-old lawyer shed the mustache, cigar and some of the fire that were his trademarks, he never lost his interest in the law.

He was secretary-treasurer emeritus of the Prince Georges County Bar Association — a post he had held since 1902, when he and several other lawyers founded the group.

After he stepped down from the bench in 1951, Judge Bowie commuted daily to his office in Upper Marlboro where he compiled a history of the County Bar Association.

Many of the stories about the farmer-lawyer stem from his explosive decisions. A former county policeman tells of a youth charged with assault and battery who appeared before Judge Bowie wearing a pin on his cap and asked, "How'm I doing?"

"Not so well," boomed the Judge. "Sixty days."

A native of Brandywine, Judge Bowie's formal education consisted of eight years in public schools. He entered the law offices of Stanley & Roberts and "read law" until he was admitted to the bar in 1902.

He is survived by his wife, Ann Hall Bowie, who lives at the home in Brandywine.