



Warner Gardner

Bennett Boskey

WARNER W. GARDNER (1909–2003) was a lawyer whose capacities and accomplishments made him a legend in his time. After graduating from Columbia Law School he spent 13 years in Government service with responsibilities notable for a young man even in an era when youth had more than its fair share of claims on public office. A year as law clerk to Associate Justice Harlan Fiske Stone launched him into the Solicitor General’s Office, where he was promoted rapidly and where he managed to argue 16 cases in the Supreme Court in addition to major brief-writing and supervisory duties. Thereafter he served successively as Solicitor of the Labor Department, Solicitor of the Interior Department, and, after an impressive stint in uniform overseas as a part of Military Intelligence during World War II, as Assistant Secretary of the Interior. When he left in mid-1947 to enter



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private practice he became what he called “the decidedly junior partner in a two-man law firm.” The firm grew and prospered and it found a distinct and widely-recognized niche in the Washington legal community.

Many years later Warner decided to enjoy himself by composing a memoir of his early period. He called it “Pebbles From The Paths Behind: A Sort Of A Memoir: The Public Path 1909–1947.” When it was completed in 1989 he had it printed up and bound in soft cover, and allowed it extremely limited circulation among family and friends. Throughout, the volume reflects his unerringly attractive style and his keen judgment of persons and events. With the thought that a much wider audience will find parts of it of interest, the *Green Bag* is here reproducing Warner’s short Preface and his chapter on the illuminating year he spent as Justice Stone’s law clerk. *JB*

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