

## Morris E. Marlow

(1866 – 20 Oct 1959)

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*The Evening Star, August 12, 1946, p. 13*

### **M.E. Marlow Resigns After Long Service As Coal Firm Head**

*By Edward C. Stone*

Morris E. Marlow, for 61 years connected with the Marlow Coal Co., has resigned as president and general manager, it was announced today. Mr. Marlow, now 80 years old, will retain his interest in the company but declined an invitation to become chairman of the board.



**MORRIS E. MARLOW**

John D. Wilkins, secretary and treasurer, and connected with the concern for many years, was advanced to the position of general manager. No action has been taken on the election of a new president. The head office is at 811 E street N.W.

The Marlow Coal Co. was established by Mr. Marlow's father 88 years ago, but today's strong and prosperous company is due mainly to the efforts of the present office staff. Morris Marlow has been head of the firm for about 40 years. A native of Washington, he entered the coal business right after leaving Central High School.

Among other business affiliations Mr. Marlow is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Bank of Washington and a director and member of the Advisory Committee of the National Capital Bank as well as one of the organizers of the National Capital Insurance Co.

*The Evening Star, April 6, 1958, p. 17*

### **Coal Firm's 100<sup>th</sup> Year Delights Morris Marlow**

*By John Barron*

This month represents an anniversary for which Morris Marlow has waited 73 years.

The Marlow Coal Co. which he headed for more than half a century is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year in Washington. Ever since he first joined it in 1885, he has hoped for such a centennial.

Mr. Marlow, who at 91 keeps fit through daily calisthenics, is retired. But he still delights in inspecting his old offices.

He says that the "youngsters" now running the company are doing a good job, but that he still can "tell them a thing or two."

Mr. Marlow, at home at 226 Maryland avenue N.E., recalled that during the days when coal was delivered in Washington by horses and carts, there were times when he would have approached some assistance.

### ***Fought Off Thieves***

Once he confronted a group of about 25 angry men who were stealing coal from his yard, then located at Virginia and Delaware avenues. Pistol in hand, he held them at bay for a few minutes. Finally, he dispersed them by grabbing one of the men and attempting to haul him off to the police station.

He also had difficulty with some of his early drivers. One once dumped 5 tons of coal in a city sewer after confusing it with a coal chute. Another reportedly deluged the kitchen of St. Elizabeths Hospital with coal after making a similar mistake.

His early winters in the coal business were exacting enough though, even without hostile incidents. He used to begin his day at 4 a.m. when he would oversee the shoeing of his horses. Sometimes his work would not end until 2 a.m. the next day. Remembering these hours, he now laments that “no one knows how to work any more like they used to.”

Mr. Marlow’s first employer was his father who had helped found the company in 1858 and had taken it over a year or so later. The employer-employee relationship was not entirely harmonious at first and Mr. Marlow quit because he was receiving no pay. He went out West, “where the food was very bad and the men very desperate.” But after a few months he returned and soon assumed charge of the company.

Mr. Marlow says he always was determined to conduct his business so that “no one could ever truthfully say anything bad about the Marlow Coal Co.” He contends that no one ever has.

### *Still Does Calisthenics*

When he isn’t involved in business or doing calisthenics – which he readily demonstrates by removing his coat, standing erectly and touch his toes – Mr. Marlow spends much of his time reading.

He still has a bicycle for which he paid about \$100 in Washington around 1885. He used to ride it some 20 miles into Maryland, but he judges such expeditions too strenuous now. He also has stopped the cold showers which he found invigorating much of his life. He points out that “on a winter morning, they can be rough.”

Both Mr. Marlow and his wife, the former Mary Chase Pool, are alert, handsome and tall. Mrs. Marlow remarks, with no trace of jealousy, that she suspects that sometimes ladies pay more attention to her husband’s impressive shock of white hair than they should.

Both are natives of Washington. Mr. Marlow never has lived more than a few blocks from his present home. They have two daughters, Mrs. William Thomson of 5313 Thirty-eighth street N.W. and Mrs. George S. Elmore of 5208 Thirty-eighth street N.W.

Concerning the future, Mr. Marlow says he would like to take a trip around the world if he could persuade his wife to go.

He also says: “I may live to be 100. In fact, I may go beyond that. I’m pretty tough, you know.”

The Marlow company at 811 E street N.W. is now headed by Ernest W. Marlow, jr., a nephew of Mr. Marlow.

**Marlow, Morris E.** On Tuesday, October 20, 1959, at his residence, 226 Maryland ave. ne., Morris E. Marlow, beloved husband of Mary P. Marlow, father of Mrs. Ruth Marlow Thomson and Mrs. Mary Marlow Elmore. Also survived by five grandchildren. Friends may call at the Lee Funeral Home, 4th st. and Massachusetts ave. ne., until 1:30 p.m., Thursday, October 22. Services will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 3d and A sts. se., at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the National Cathedral Building Fund. Interment private in Congressional Cemetery.

*The Evening Star, October 20, 1959, p. 28*

**Morris Marlow Dies; Headed Coal Company**

Morris E. Marlow, for 61 years with the Marlow Coal Co. as president and general manager, died today at his home, 226 Maryland avenue N.E., just 300 feet from the home where he was born 93 years ago.

Mr. Marlow's connection with banks and other financial institutions here covers half a century. He was a director of the National Bank of Washington and the East Washington Savings Bank and a member of the advisory committee of National Capital Bank. He also held executive posts with insurance companies and building associations.

Mr. Marlow's father, the late Walter Marlow, started the coal company in 1858. Until recently, Mr. Marlow would drop by the company's offices for informal inspections. He said the "youngsters" now running the company are doing a good job, but that he could still tell them "a thing or two."

Mr. Marlow once recalled that he had confronted a group of about 25 angry men who were stealing coal from his yard, then located at Virginia and Delaware avenues. Pistol in hand, he held them at bay for a few minutes. Finally, he dispersed them by grabbing one of the men and marching him to the police station.

He also had difficulty with some of his early drivers. One once dumped 5 tons of coal in a city sewer after mistaking it for a coal chute. Another reportedly deluged the kitchen of St. Elizabeths Hospital with coal after making a similar mistake.

Mr. Marlow's first employer, his father, saw his son quit because he wasn't being paid. The son headed west, but the "bad food and desperate men" caused him to return to Washington a few months later and he soon assumed charge of the company.

He also belonged to the Oldest Inhabitants and Masons.

Besides his wife Mary of the home address, he leaves two daughters, Mrs. William Thompson of 5313 Thirty-eighth street N.W., and Mrs. George S. Elmore of 5208 Thirty-eighth street N.W., and five grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday in St. Mark's Church, followed by private burial in Congressional Cemetery. The family, requesting that flowers be omitted, suggests donations to the Washington Cathedral Building Fund.

*The Washington Post, October 21, 1959, p. B2*

### **Marlow, Coal Firm Head, Dies**

Morris E. Marlow, president of the Marlow Coal Co. and a banking official since the 1890s, died yesterday at his home, 226 Maryland ave. ne. He was 93.

As a boy, Mr. Marlow would ice skate at the base of the Washington Monument, then a 150-foot stump, or visit his father's coal yard on the canal that is now busy Constitution ave.

He was a Capitol Hill resident all his life and the owner of large tracts of land in Maryland, now called Marlow Heights.

Surviving are his wife, Mary, and two daughters, Mrs. William Thompson and Mrs. George S. Elmore, both of Washington.