

CHIEF JUSTICE:  
EDWARD W. HUGGINS

JUSTICES:  
JOHN W. EGGLESTON  
C. VERNON SPRATLEY  
ARCHIBALD C. BUCHANAN  
WILLIS D. MILLER  
LEMUEL F. SMITH  
KENNON C. WHITTLE

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS  
OF VIRGINIA

HOWARD G. TURNER  
CLERK  
HUBERT D. BENNETT  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Richmond 10  
December 14, 1954

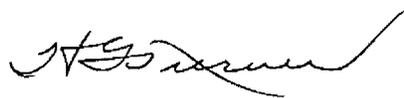
Hon. H. Barner Batte  
Clerk, Circuit Court of Dinwiddie County  
Dinwiddie, Virginia

Dear Mr. Batte:

The case of W. O. Lucy and J. C. Lucy  
v. A. H. Zehmer and Ida S. Zehmer, Record No.  
4272, having been disposed of in this court, I  
am returning herewith the record and exhibits  
(in record).

Please acknowledge receipt on copy of  
letter enclosed.

Very truly yours,



Clerk

HGT-h

Encls.

VIRGINIA:

*In the Supreme Court of Appeals held at the Court-Library Building*  
*in the City of Richmond on* Monday *the 22nd day of* November, 1954.

W. O. Lucy and J. C. Lucy, Appellants,  
against Record No. 4272  
A. H. Zehmer and Ida S. Zehmer, Appellees.

Upon an appeal from and supersedeas to a decree entered by the Circuit Court of Dinwiddie County on the 21st day of October, 1953.

This day came again the parties, by counsel, and the court having maturely considered the transcript of the record of the decree aforesaid and arguments of counsel, is of opinion, for reasons stated in writing and filed with the record, that the said decree is erroneous. It is therefore adjudged, ordered and decreed that the said decree be, and the same is hereby reversed and annulled, and the cause is remanded to the said Circuit Court for the entry of a proper decree requiring A. H. Zehmer and Ida S. Zehmer to perform the contract in accordance with the prayer of the Bill of Complaint.

It is further adjudged, ordered and decreed that the appellants recover of the appellees their costs by them expended about the prosecution of their appeal and supersedeas aforesaid here.

Which is ordered to be certified to the said Circuit Court.

A Copy,

Teste:



Clerk.

(over)

Appellants' costs:

Writ tax_____	\$ 6.50
Printing_____	225.28
Attorney's fee_____	50.00
Small fees_____	5.00
Transcript_____	
Printing brief_____	50.00
Total	\$336.78

Teste:

H. Gardner C. C.

RECORDED IN CAP. # 6 PAGE 356.



Present: Eggleston, Buchanan, Miller, Smith and Whittle, JJ.

W. O. LUCY AND J. C. LUCY

-v- Record No. 4272 OPINION BY JUSTICE ARCHIBALD C. BUCHANAN  
Richmond, Virginia, November 22, 1954

A. H. ZEHMER AND IDA S. ZEHMER

FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT OF DINWIDDIE COUNTY  
J. G. Jefferson, Jr., Judge

This suit was instituted by W. O. Lucy and J. C. Lucy, complainants, against A. H. Zehmer and Ida S. Zehmer, his wife, defendants, to have specific performance of a contract by which it was alleged the Zehmers had sold to W. O. Lucy a tract of land owned by A. H. Zehmer in Dinwiddie county containing 471.6 acres, more or less, known as the Ferguson farm, for \$50,000. J. C. Lucy, the other complainant, is a brother of W. O. Lucy, to whom W. O. Lucy transferred a half interest in his alleged purchase.

The instrument sought to be enforced was written by A. H. Zehmer on December 20, 1952, in these words: "We hereby agree to sell to W. O. Lucy the Ferguson Farm complete for \$50,000.00, title satisfactory to buyer," and signed by the defendants, A. H. Zehmer and Ida S. Zehmer.

The answer of A. H. Zehmer admitted that at the time

mentioned W. O. Lucy offered him \$50,000 cash for the farm, but that he, Zehmer, considered that the offer was made in jest; that so thinking, and both he and Lucy having had several drinks, he wrote out "the memorandum" quoted above and induced his wife to sign it; that he did not deliver the memorandum to Lucy, but that Lucy picked it up, read it, put it in his pocket, attempted to offer Zehmer \$5 to bind the bargain, which Zehmer refused to accept, and realizing for the first time that Lucy was serious, Zehmer assured him that he had no intention of selling the farm and that the whole matter was a joke. Lucy left the premises insisting that he had purchased the farm.

Depositions were taken and the decree appealed from was entered holding that the complainants had failed to establish their right to specific performance, and dismissing their bill. The assignment of error is to this action of the court.

W. O. Lucy, a lumberman and farmer, thus testified in substance: He had known Zehmer for fifteen or twenty years and had been familiar with the Ferguson farm for ten years. Seven or eight years ago he had offered Zehmer \$20,000 for the farm which Zehmer had accepted, but the agreement was verbal and Zehmer backed out. On the night of December 20, 1952, around

eight o'clock, he took an employee to McKenney, where Zehmer lived and operated a restaurant, filling station and motor court. While there he decided to see Zehmer and again try to buy the Ferguson farm. He entered the restaurant and talked to Mrs. Zehmer until Zehmer came in. He asked Zehmer if he had sold the Ferguson farm. Zehmer replied that he had not. Lucy said, "I bet you wouldn't take \$50,000.00 for that place." Zehmer replied, "Yes, I would too; you wouldn't give fifty." Lucy said he would and told Zehmer to write up an agreement to that effect. Zehmer took a restaurant check and wrote on the back of it, "I do hereby agree to sell to W. O. Lucy the Ferguson Farm for \$50,000 complete." Lucy told him he had better change it to "We" because Mrs. Zehmer would have to sign it too. Zehmer then tore up what he had written, wrote the agreement quoted above and asked Mrs. Zehmer, who was at the other end of the counter ten or twelve feet away, to sign it. Mrs. Zehmer said she would for \$50,000 and signed it. Zehmer brought it back and gave it to Lucy, who offered him \$5 which Zehmer refused, saying, "You don't need to give me any money, you got the agreement there signed by both of us."

The discussion leading to the signing of the agreement, said Lucy, lasted thirty or forty minutes, during which Zehmer

seemed to doubt that Lucy could raise \$50,000. Lucy suggested the provision for having the title examined and Zehmer made the suggestion that he would sell it "complete, everything there," and stated that all he had on the farm was three heifers.

Lucy took a partly filled bottle of whiskey into the restaurant with him for the purpose of giving Zehmer a drink if he wanted it. Zehmer did, and he and Lucy had one or two drinks together. Lucy said that while he felt the drinks he took he was not intoxicated, and from the way Zehmer handled the transaction he did not think he was either.

December 20 was on Saturday. Next day Lucy telephoned to J. C. Lucy and arranged with the latter to take a half interest in the purchase and pay half of the consideration. On Monday he engaged an attorney to examine the title. The attorney reported favorably on December 31 and on January 2 Lucy wrote Zehmer stating that the title was satisfactory, that he was ready to pay the purchase price in cash and asking when Zehmer would be ready to close the deal. Zehmer replied by letter, mailed on January 13, asserting that he had never agreed or intended to sell.

Mr. and Mrs. Zehmer were called by the complainants as adverse witnesses. Zehmer testified in substance as follows:

He bought this farm more than ten years ago for \$11,000. He had had twenty-five offers, more or less, to buy it, including several from Lucy, who had never offered any specific sum of money. He had given them all the same answer, that he was not interested in selling it. On this Saturday night before Christmas it looked like everybody and his brother came by there to have a drink. He took a good many drinks during the afternoon and had a pint of his own. When he entered the restaurant around eighty-three Lucy was there and he could see that he was "pretty high." He said to Lucy, "Boy, you got some good liquor, drinking, ain't you?" Lucy then offered him a drink. "I was already high as a Georgia pine, and didn't have any more better sense than to pour another great big slug out and gulp it down, and he took one too."

After they had talked a while Lucy asked whether he still had the Ferguson farm. He replied that he had not sold it and Lucy said, "I bet you wouldn't take \$50,000.00 for it." Zehmer asked him if he would give \$50,000 and Lucy said yes. Zehmer replied, "You haven't got \$50,000.00 in cash." Lucy said he did and Zehmer replied that he did not believe it. They argued "pro and con for a long time," mainly about "whether he had \$50,000 in cash that he could put up right then and buy that

farm."

Finally, said Zehmer, Lucy told him if he didn't believe he had \$50,000, "you sign that piece of paper here and say you will take \$50,000.00 for the farm." He, Zehmer, "just grabbed the back off of a guest check there" and wrote on the back of it. At that point in his testimony Zehmer asked to see what he had written to "see if I recognize my own handwriting." He examined the paper and exclaimed, "Great balls of fire, I got 'Firgerson' for Ferguson. I have got satisfactory spelled wrong. I don't recognize that writing if I would see it, wouldn't know it was mine."

After Zehmer had, as he described it, "scribbled this thing off," Lucy said, "Get your wife to sign it." Zehmer walked over to where she was and she at first refused to sign but did so after he told her that he "was just needling him [Lucy], and didn't mean a thing in the world, that I was not selling the farm." Zehmer then "took it back over there \* \* and I was still looking at the dern thing. I had the drink right there by my hand, and I reached over to get a drink, and he said, 'Let me see it.' He reached and picked it up, and when I looked back again he had it in his pocket and he dropped a five dollar bill over there, and he said, 'Here is five dollars payment on it.' \* \* I said,

'Hell no, that is beer and liquor talking. I am not going to sell you the farm. I have told you that too many times before.'

Mrs. Zehmer testified that when Lucy came into the restaurant he looked as if he had had a drink. When Zehmer came in he took a drink out of a bottle that Lucy handed him. She went back to help the waitress who was getting things ready for next day. Lucy and Zehmer were talking but she did not pay too much attention to what they were saying. She heard Lucy ask Zehmer if he had sold the Ferguson farm, and Zehmer replied that he had not and did not want to sell it. Lucy said, "I bet you wouldn't take \$50,000.00 cash for that farm," and Zehmer replied, "You haven't got \$50,000 cash." Lucy said, "I can get it." Zehmer said he might form a company and get it, "but you haven't got \$50,000.00 cash to pay me tonight." Lucy asked him if he would put it in writing that he would sell him this farm. Zehmer then wrote on the back of a pad, "I agree to sell the Ferguson Place to W. O. Lucy for \$50,000.00 cash." Lucy said, "All right, get your wife to sign it." Zehmer came back to where she was standing and said, "You want to put your name to this?" She said "No," but he said in an undertone, "It is nothing but a joke," and she signed it.

She said that only one paper was written and it said: "I hereby agree to sell," but the "I" had been changed to "We". However, she said she read what she signed and was then asked, "When you read 'We hereby agree to sell to W. O. Lucy,' what did you interpret that to mean, that particular phrase?" She said she thought that was a cash sale that night; but she also said that when she read that part about "title satisfactory to buyer" she understood that if the title was good Lucy would pay \$50,000 but if the title was bad he would have a right to reject it, and that that was her understanding at the time she signed her name.

On examination by her own counsel she said that her husband laid this piece of paper down after it was signed; that Lucy said to let him see it, took it, folded it and put it in his wallet, then said to Zehmer, "Let me give you \$5.00," but Zehmer said, "No, this is liquor talking. I don't want to sell the farm, I have told you that I want my son to have it. This is all a joke." Lucy then said at least twice, "Zehmer, you have sold your farm," wheeled around and started for the door. He paused at the door and said, "I will bring you \$50,000.00 tomorrow. \* \* No, tomorrow is Sunday. I will bring it to you Monday." She said you could tell definitely that he was drinking and she said

to her husband, "You should have taken him home," but he said, "Well, I am just about as bad off as he is."

The waitress referred to by Mrs. Zehmer testified that when Lucy first came in "he was mouthy." When Zehmer came in they were laughing and joking and she thought they took a drink or two. She was sweeping and cleaning up for next day. She said she heard Lucy tell Zehmer, "I will give you so much for the farm," and Zehmer said, "You haven't got that much." Lucy answered, "Oh, yes, I will give you that much." Then "they jotted down something on paper \* \* and Mr. Lucy reached over and took it, said let me see it." He looked at it, put it in his pocket and in about a minute he left. She was asked whether she saw Lucy offer Zehmer any money and replied, "He had five dollars laying up there, they didn't take it." She said Zehmer told Lucy he didn't want his money "because he didn't have enough money to pay for his property, and wasn't going to sell his farm." Both of them appeared to be drinking right much, she said.

She repeated on cross-examination that she was busy and paying no attention to what was going on. She was some distance away and did not see either of them sign the paper. She was asked whether she saw Zehmer put the agreement down on the

table in front of Lucy, and her answer was this: "Time he got through writing whatever it was on the paper, Mr. Lucy reached over and said, 'Let's see it.' He took it and put it in his pocket," before showing it to Mrs. Zehmer. Her version was that Lucy kept raising his offer until it got to \$50,000.

The defendants insist that the evidence was ample to support their contention that the writing sought to be enforced was prepared as a bluff or dare to force Lucy to admit that he did not have \$50,000; that the whole matter was a joke; that the writing was not delivered to Lucy and no binding contract was ever made between the parties.

It is an unusual, if not bizarre, defense. When made to the writing admittedly prepared by one of the defendants and signed by both, clear evidence is required to sustain it.

In his testimony Zehmer claimed that he "was high as a Georgia pine," and that the transaction "was just a bunch of two doggoned drunks bluffing to see who could talk the biggest and say the most." That claim is inconsistent with his attempt to testify in great detail as to what was said and what was done. It is contradicted by other evidence as to the condition of both parties, and rendered of no weight by the testimony of his wife

that when Lucy left the restaurant she suggested that Zehmer drive him home. The record is convincing that Zehmer was not intoxicated to the extent of being unable to comprehend the nature and consequences of the instrument he executed, and hence that instrument is not to be invalidated on that ground. 17 C.J. S., Contracts, § 133 b., p. 483; Taliaferro v. Emery, 124 Va. 674, 98 S. E. 627. It was in fact conceded by defendants' counsel in oral argument that under the evidence Zehmer was not too drunk to make a valid contract.

The evidence is convincing also that Zehmer wrote two agreements, the first one beginning "I hereby agree to sell." Zehmer first said he could not remember about that, then that "I don't think I wrote but one out." Mrs. Zehmer said that what he wrote was "I hereby agree," but that the "I" was changed to "We" after that night. The agreement that was written and signed is in the record and indicates no such change. Neither are the mistakes in spelling that Zehmer sought to point out readily apparent.

The appearance of the contract, the fact that it was under discussion for forty minutes or more before it was signed; Lucy's objection to the first draft because it was written in the

singular, and he wanted Mrs. Zehmer to sign it also; the rewriting to meet that objection and the signing by Mrs. Zehmer; the discussion of what was to be included in the sale, the provision for the examination of the title, the completeness of the instrument that was executed, the taking possession of it by Lucy with no request or suggestion by either of the defendants that he give it back, are facts which furnish persuasive evidence that the execution of the contract was a serious business transaction rather than a casual, jesting matter as defendants now contend.

On Sunday, the day after the instrument was signed on Saturday night, there was a social gathering in a home in the town of McKenney at which there were general comments that the sale had been made. Mrs. Zehmer testified that on that occasion as she passed by a group of people, including Lucy, who were talking about the transaction, \$50,000 was mentioned, whereupon she stepped up and said, "Well, with the high-price whiskey you were drinking last night you should have paid more. That was cheap." Lucy testified that at that time Zehmer told him that he did not want to "stick" him or hold him to the agreement because he, Lucy, was too tight and didn't know what he was doing, to which Lucy replied that he was not too tight; that he had been

stuck before and was going through with it. Zehmer's version was that he said to Lucy: "I am not trying to claim it wasn't a deal on account of the fact the price was too low. If I had wanted to sell \$50,000.00 would be a good price, in fact I think you would get stuck at \$50,000.00." A disinterested witness testified that what Zehmer said to Lucy was that "he was going to let him up off the deal, because he thought he was too tight, didn't know what he was doing. Lucy said something to the effect that 'I have been stuck before and I will go through with it.'"

If it be assumed, contrary to what we think the evidence shows, that Zehmer was jesting about selling his farm to Lucy and that the transaction was intended by him to be a joke, nevertheless the evidence shows that Lucy did not so understand it but considered it to be a serious business transaction and the contract to be binding on the Zehmers as well as on himself. The very next day he arranged with his brother to put up half the money and take a half interest in the land. The day after that he employed an attorney to examine the title. The next night, Tuesday, he was back at Zehmer's place and there Zehmer told him for the first time, Lucy said, that he wasn't going to sell and he told Zehmer, "You know you sold that place fair and square."

After receiving the report from his attorney that the title was good he wrote to Zehmer that he was ready to close the deal.

Not only did Lucy actually believe, but the evidence shows he was warranted in believing, that the contract represented a serious business transaction and a good faith sale and purchase of the farm.

In the field of contracts, as generally elsewhere, "We must look to the outward expression of a person as manifesting his intention rather than to his secret and unexpressed intention.

"The law imputes to a person an intention corresponding to the reasonable meaning of his words and acts." First Nat. Bank v. Roanoke Oil Co., 169 Va. 99, 114, 192 S. E. 764, 770.

At no time prior to the execution of the contract had Zehmer indicated to Lucy by word or act that he was not in earnest about selling the farm. They had argued about it and discussed its terms, as Zehmer admitted, for a long time. Lucy testified that if there was any jesting it was about paying \$50,000 that night. The contract and the evidence show that he was not expected to pay the money that night. Zehmer said that after the writing was signed he laid it down on the counter in front of Lucy. Lucy said Zehmer handed it to him. In any event there

had been what appeared to be a good faith offer and a good faith acceptance, followed by the execution and apparent delivery of a written contract. Both said that Lucy put the writing in his pocket and then offered Zehmer \$5 to seal the bargain. Not until then, even under the defendants' evidence, was anything said or done to indicate that the matter was a joke. Both of the Zehmers testified that when Zehmer asked his wife to sign he whispered that it was a joke so Lucy wouldn't hear and that it was not intended that he should hear.

The mental assent of the parties is not requisite for the formation of a contract. If the words or other acts of one of the parties have but one reasonable meaning, his undisclosed intention is immaterial except when an unreasonable meaning which he attaches to his manifestations is known to the other party.

Restatement of the Law of Contracts, Vol. I, § 71, p. 74.

"\* \* \* The law, therefore, judges of an agreement between two persons exclusively from those expressions of their intentions which are communicated between them. \* \* \*." Clark on Contracts, 4 ed., § 3, p. 4.

An agreement or mutual assent is of course essential to a valid contract but the law imputes to a person an intention corresponding to the reasonable meaning of his words and acts.

If his words and acts, judged by a reasonable standard, manifest an intention to agree, it is immaterial what may be the real but unexpressed state of his mind. 17 C.J.S., Contracts, § 32, p. 361; 12 Am. Jur., Contracts, § 19, p. 515.

So a person cannot set up that he was merely jesting when his conduct and words would warrant a reasonable person in believing that he intended a real agreement. 17 C.J.S., Contracts, § 47, p. 390; Clark on Contracts, 4 ed., § 27, at p. 54.

Whether the writing signed by the defendants and now sought to be enforced by the complainants was the result of a serious offer by Lucy and a serious acceptance by the defendants, or was a serious offer by Lucy and an acceptance in secret jest by the defendants, in either event it constituted a binding contract of sale between the parties.

Defendants contend further, however, that even though a contract was made, equity should decline to enforce it under the circumstances. These circumstances have been set forth in detail above. They disclose some drinking by the two parties but not to an extent that they were unable to understand fully what they were doing. There was no fraud, no misrepresentation, no sharp practice and no dealing between unequal parties. The

farm had been bought for \$11,000 and was assessed for taxation at \$6,300. The purchase price was \$50,000. Zehmer admitted that it was a good price. There is in fact present in this case none of the grounds usually urged against specific performance.

Specific performance, it is true, is not a matter of absolute or arbitrary right, but is addressed to the reasonable and sound discretion of the court. First Nat. Bank v. Roanoke Oil Co., supra, 169 Va. at p. 116, 192 S. E. at p. 771. But it is likewise true that the discretion which may be exercised is not an arbitrary or capricious one, but one which is controlled by the established doctrines and settled principles of equity; and, generally, where a contract is in its nature and circumstances unobjectionable, it is as much a matter of course for courts of equity to decree a specific performance of it as it is for a court of law to give damages for a breach of it. Bond v. Crawford, 193 Va. 437, 444, 69 S. E. 2d 470, 475.

The complainants are entitled to have specific performance of the contract sued on. The decree appealed from is therefore reversed and the cause is remanded for the entry of a proper decree requiring the defendants to perform the contract in accordance with the prayer of the bill.

Reversed and remanded.

December 22nd, 1954.

Mr. Emerson D. Baugh, Attorney,  
Lawrenceville, Virginia.

Dear Emerson: RE: Lucy v: Zehmer.

I am just in receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, with form of decree.

Judge Jefferson has closed his Court, and left for Amelia. I think he will be here next on January 9th.

In the meantime we suggest you have the Clerk furnish us an itemized statement of the costs, including such items as you claim have been omitted. It is my purpose to recommend that all proper costs be paid, and I prefer, when this is done, to enter the decree which we signed when you were here. In other words I think it is best to end the entire matter and leave nothing pending or uncertain.

In making up the costs, your attention is called to Section 14-193 of the Code, as amended 1954, providing taxed attorneys fee of \$15.00 in chancery cases and \$50.00 in the Supreme Court of Appeals, but providing that in no case shall more than one fee be taxed against the same party unless the Court otherwise directs.

With the Seasons best wishes, I am,

With kindest regards,

Yours very truly,

Horton G. Goode.

G/ENC

cc:

Mr. A. S. Harrison, Atty.,  
Lawrenceville, Va.

Mr. H. Berner Hatte, Clerk,  
Dinwiddie, Va.

EMERSON D. BAUGH  
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW  
LAWRENCEVILLE, VIRGINIA

TRIAL JUSTICE  
BRUNSWICK CO.

December 22, 1954

Mr. H. B. Batte, Clerk  
Circuit Court  
Dinwiddie, Virginia

Re: W. O. Lucy and J. C. Lucy  
vs.  
A. H. Zehmer and Ida S. Zehmer

Dear Mr. Batte:

Please find enclosed a statement of the cost in the above cause which has been paid or advanced by the complainants, and which we are entitled to recover. I am sending a copy of this letter and statement to Senator Goode. Please enter a judgment accordingly unless the same is paid by the defendants. The record should show the entire cost of the suit.

Yours very truly,



Emerson D. Baugh

EDB/k

Encl.

CC: Honorable M. G. Goode  
Dinwiddie, Virginia

CC: Honorable A. S. Harrison, Jr.  
Lawrenceville, Virginia

VIRGINIA:

In the Circuit Court of Dinwiddie County: -

W. O. Lucy and J. C. Lucy

v.: STATEMENT OF COSTS .

A. H. Zehmer and Ida S. Zehmer

Costs incurred in Circuit Court:

H. B. Batte, Clerk, original deposit and writ tax	\$ 11.50
Sheriff of Dinwiddie County - serving notices and summoning witnesses	4.75
Taxed Attorney's fee in Circuit Court	15.00
H. James Edwards, Court Reporter, Depositions taken July 30, 1953 and preparing transcript of record	153.75
H. B. Batte, Clerk, transcript of record - January 16, 1954	5.00
TOTAL	<u>\$190.00</u>

Costs incurred in Supreme Court:

Writ tax	\$ 6.50
Printing	225.28
Taxed Attorney's fee in Supreme Court	50.00
Small fees	5.00
Printing brief	50.00
TOTAL	<u>\$ 336.78</u>

Total Costs Recovered:  
Plaintiffs against defendants

\$ 526.78

Credit by amount paid by H. B. Batte, Clerk,  
on account of costs on December 17, 1954

336.78

Balance Due \$190.00

EMERSON D. BAUGH  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
LAWRENCEVILLE, VIRGINIA  
TRIAL JUSTICE, BRUNSWICK, CO.

December 23, 1954

Mr. M. G. Goode  
Dinwiddie, Virginia

Re: Lucy vs. Zehmer

Dear Senator:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 22nd with reference to cost in the above matter. I presume you have received the statement of cost by this time. Delete the fifteen dollars (\$15.00) taxed attorneys fee and I think the remainder of the statement is correct.

Yours very truly,

Emerson D. Baugh

EDB/k

CC: Honorable A. S. Harrison, Jr.  
Lawrenceville, Virginia

CC: Mr. H. B. Batte, Clerk  
Circuit Court  
Dinwiddie, Virginia

December 31, 1954

Hon. Emerson D. Baugh  
Lawrenceville  
Virginia

Re: Lucy  
vs. #131, Chancery  
Zehmer

Dear Judge Baugh:

I am enclosing statement of cost in the above suit.

My records show that the original deposit and writ tax amounted to \$10.00 instead of \$11.50 as shown by statement attached to your letter dated December 22, and I have deleted the \$15.00 taxed attorneys fee as \$50.00 had already been charged in the Supreme Court cost.

In reference to entering judgment against the defendants for these costs, I will have to have an order from Judge Jefferson.

With kind regards, I am

Yours very truly,

H. B. Batte, Clerk

Enc.

HBB/jw

cc: Mr. A. H. Zehmer, McKenney, Virginia  
Mr. Morton G. Goode, Dinwiddie, Virginia



SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF VIRGINIA

RICHMOND January 12th, 1954

DEAR SIR:

I am in receipt of letter of counsel to transmit record  
in the case of—

W. O. Lucy, et al. vs. A. H. Zehmer, et al.

which will have proper attention.

  
Clerk.

RICHMOND  
JAN 13  
10<sup>30</sup> AM  
5 1954  
VA.

POSTAGE  
FIGHT  
INFANTILE PARALYSIS  
2 CENTS  
JOIN MARCH OF DIMES

H. B. Batte, Esq.  
Circuit Court of Dinwiddie County  
Dinwiddie, Virginia

Know all Men by these Presents, That we, W. O. Lucy, and J. C. Lucy principals and B. Hunter Barrow, surety are held and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Virginia, in the sum of Five hundred dollars, to the payment whereof, well and truly to be made to the said Commonwealth of Virginia, we bind ourselves and each of us, our and each of our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. And we hereby waive the benefit of our exemptions as to this obligation, and also of any claim, or right to discharge any liability to the Commonwealth arising under this bond, or by virtue of said office, post or trust, with coupons detached from bonds of this State. Sealed with our seals, and dated this 4th day of February one thousand nine hundred and fifty four

THE CONDITION OF THE ABOVE OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That whereas W. O. Lucy and J. C. Lucy

by petition to the Supreme Court of Appeals of the State of Virginia, has prayed and obtained an appeal from, and a supersedeas to, a decree of the Circuit Court of the County of Dinwiddie, pronounced on the 21st day of October, 1953, in a ~~surety proceeding in said Court, in which~~ in a certain chancery cause then therein depending wherein the said petitioners were plaintiffs and A. H. Zehmer and Ida S. Zehmer were defendants;

upon entering into bond with sufficient security in the Clerk's office of the said Circuit Court of the County of Dinwiddie, in the sum of Five hundred dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, If W. O. Lucy and J. C. Lucy

shall perform and satisfy the said decree in case the same be affirmed or the said appeal and supersedeas be dismissed, and shall also pay all damages, costs and fees which may be awarded against or incurred by Them then this obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

[Signatures of W. O. Lucy, J. C. Lucy, and B. Hunter Barrow, each followed by [SEAL]

In the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Dinwiddie This day personally appeared before me H. B. Batte, Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County of Dinwiddie, W. O. Lucy, J. C. Lucy and B. Hunter Barrow, and made oath that their estates, after the payment of all their just debts, and those for which they are bound as security for others and expect to have to pay, are worth the sum of Five hundred dollars, over and above all exemptions allowed by law. Given under my hand, this 4th day of February, 1954

[Signature of H. B. Batte], Clerk.

W. O. LUCY & J. C. LUCY

to } APPEAL BOND.

Commonwealth

February 4th, 1954

RECEIVED  
FEB 10 1954

February 10, 1954

Mr. H. G. Turner, Clerk  
Supreme Court of Appeals  
Richmond, Virginia

Re: W. O. Lucy and J. C. Lucy  
vs.  
A. H. Zehmer and Ida S. Zehmer

Dear Mr. Turner:

W. O. Lucy and J. C. Lucy entered into bond, with B. Hunter Barrow as their security, before me as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Dinwiddie County in the penalty of \$500.00 on February 4th, 1954.

With kind regards, I am

Yours very truly,

H. B. Batte, Clerk

HBB/jw

A. S. HARRISON, JR.  
Attorney at Law  
LAWRENCEVILLE, VIRGINIA

February 13, 1954

Mr. Morton G. Goode,  
Attorney at Law,  
Dinwiddie, Virginia.

Re: Lucy v. Zehmer

Dear Morton:

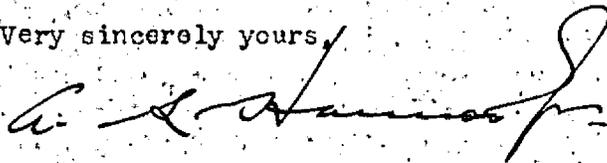
I enclose herewith writ and copy in the above case, and shall thank you to acknowledge service of the writ on the original. After you have done this, please take it to the Clerk's office, and have Mr. Batte execute his certificate, showing that the bond has been duly given.

I shall thank Mr. Batte to return the original with his certificate, and after you have accepted service thereon, to my office, so that I can forward it, in due course, to the Supreme Court.

You will, of course, retain the copy of the writ for your files.

With kind regards, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,



ASH Jr/mrh

Encs.

Copy to Mr. H.B. Batte, ✓  
Clerk of the Court,  
Dinwiddie, Virginia.

A. S. HARRISON, JR.  
Attorney at Law  
LAWRENCEVILLE, VIRGINIA

January 15, 1954

Mr. H. B. Batte,  
Clerk of the Court,  
Dinwiddie, Virginia.

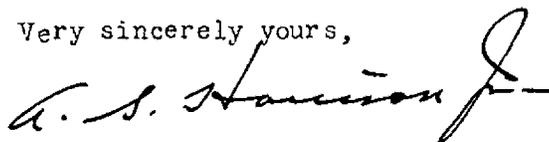
Re: W. O. Lucy, et al. v.  
A. H. Zehmer, et al.

Dear Mr. Batte:

I thank you for your prompt and efficient  
service in the above case.

I enclose herewith my check in the amount  
of \$5.00, covering your fee.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "A. S. Harrison, Jr.", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

ASH Jr/mrh  
Enc. 1.

January 12, 1954

Mr. A. S. Harrison Jr., Attorney  
Lawrenceville  
Virginia

Dear Mr. Harrison:

I have delivered the papers in the case of W. O. Lucy et al vs. A. H. Zehmer et al, to the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals in Richmond and I am enclosing a statement for \$5.00.

With kind regards, I am

Yours very truly,

H. B. Batte, Clerk

Enc.

HBB/jw

January 9, 1954

Hon. Howard C. Turner  
Supreme Court of Appeals  
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Mr. Turner:

Please file the enclosed letter with the papers  
in the Chancery Suit #131, W. O. Lucy et al vs. A. H. Zehmer  
et al, which were left with you on December 14, 1953.

With kind regards, I am

Yours very truly,

H. B. Batte, Clerk

Enc.

HBB/jw