Class of 1897

Class Bulletin no. 53: Law Class of 1897

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Law class 1897
Class ball, no. 53
ABBOTT, CHARLES F., Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt.—Deceased, April 27, 1929.

ABBOTT, CHARLES S., Chicago, Ill.—Deceased, March 12, 1946.

AIRD, C. W., Brantford, Ont.—Deceased, September 8, 1931.

BABB, MAX WELLINGTON, 6440 North Lake Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin—Deceased, March 13, 1943.

BAER, AUGUST H., Bellville, Ill.—Deceased, October 27, 1918.


BARTLET, CHARLES L., 2815 Barlam Bldg.; Home 5605 Vancouver Ave., Detroit, Mich.—I take great pleasure in sending you my 53rd class report. I have never missed sending in my class report or attending a class reunion. This has been an eventful year for me in more ways than one. When I wrote you last year I was in the Veterans’ Hospital at Bay Pines, Florida, recovering from a serious operation. The hospital served us a fine Christmas dinner on Christmas. After dinner on Christmas we sat in the beautiful Florida sunshine and witnessed a performance of Ringling Bros. Circus sent to Bay Pines for the enjoyment of the veterans. After receiving my discharge from the hospital, I enjoyed many big league baseball games in training camps at St. Petersburg. For the first time I saw the famous three quarters century baseball teams play, the Kids and the Cubs. I saw one young man 83 years of age make a two base hit and slide into second base. Another 90 year young man was practicing pitching on the sidelines. Classmates, take a tip. There is no reason why the rest of us cannot live to ripe old age even though we do not live in Florida. I had a high Masonic honor conferred on me at St. Petersburg. Monroe Council No. 1 of Detroit, Royal and Select Masons sent to Past Thrice Illustrious Grand Master of Michigan, living in St. Pete during the winter, a life membership which was presented to me by the Grand Master, in the presence of four Past Grand Masters, the present Grand Master and the Lodge. There was a fine article about it in the St. Petersburg paper. March 31st found us at our favorite place in Florida—Daytona Beach. We had a beautiful apartment near the ocean, where we stayed and Mary and I were at the seashore nearly
every day. While at Daytona, the Detroit Lodge of Elks, of which I am a life member, notified me that I had just been re-appointed for the eighth straight year Chief Presiding Judge. When I was State President of the Elks in 1928-29, I was invited to Niles to take part there in an important meeting. Together with Judge White we had a most enjoyable evening. Leaving Daytona Beach, June 15th, we came to Detroit where we have been enjoying our friends and associates. After all, there is no place like home. I am again in active practice of law at 2815 Barium Bldg., where I have been for many years. I will be seventy eight years of age this month—Dec. 18th. My dear wife is very active in patriotic societies, D. A. R., Mayflower, and Daughters of 1812. Today is a big day for her. She is in charge of a large gathering of 1812 Daughters, and arranged the luncheon, etc. We enjoy a wonderful and happy life together. I know that all members of our class join me in wishing our distinguished class president continued good health and happiness. He certainly deserves it. His devotion to the 1897 class has been beyond the line of duty. Let all of us pledge ourselves (health permitting) to attend the 1952 class reunion at Ann Arbor. We expect to attend. Also let a few of us get together each year if we can. Best wishes to you all, and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.


BLACKBURN, JAMES H., Mt. Vernon, Ind.—This opportunity to extend greetings to you and the other members of our '97 Michigan Law Class is appreciated. However, I find myself entirely destitute of anything new to report. I am just now half way through my six year term as Circuit Judge and I have thoroughly enjoyed the work. It has been a release from heavy work and has given me leisure that I am old enough to appreciate. I am looking forward to the next three years as a termination of activities in the law, and just what I will do after my term expires I have not yet made up my mind. The idea of retiring and spending the rest of my life killing time does not appeal to me but perhaps I can find something to do that will keep me occupied. I am anxious to receive the Bulletin and hear from all of the other fellows and take this opportunity of extending my good wishes to you and all of them.

BODMAN, HENRY E., 1400 Buhl Bldg., Detroit, Michigan—There is very little that I can contribute which will be of interest, but I do wish to acknowledge and commend you for your untiring and devoted efforts on the Bulletin. Also, I would like to extend my best wishes to all those by whom this Bulletin will be received. I hope the next time you are passing through Detroit you will let me know as I should certainly appreciate an opportunity to renew our acquaintance.


COOMBS, ROY R., 352B South Reeves Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif.
—I have done nothing startling the past year, so my report will not be interesting. I hope the Republicans will quit the “me too” business and find an issue or issues that the people will be interested enough in to go to the polls and vote. If we don’t win the next time, the party is a dead duck. There is just one man who can win for us and that’s Gen. Eisenhower. Wish all the class a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

DANCER, HERBERT A., 1000 Alworth Bldg., Duluth, Minn.—I certainly appreciate your kindness in continuing in perpetuity (as nearly as may be) the publication and circulation of our Bulletin. I have been busier during ten months of this year than I like to be, although I do not get down quite so early in the morning as I once did, and I go home a little earlier. Last winter, Mrs. Dancer and I spent two months in Florida and New York. I do not know just where we shall go this winter. While in Florida, we saw Judge and Mrs. White frequently, and one day we all drove over to Miami Beach to call on our friend Hills and found him greeting life with a laugh as usual. I saw him once again in Chicago late in the summer but have not seen any other members of the class.

DRUMHELLER, THOMAS J., Box 538, Walla Walla, Wash., from Nov. 1 to April 15, and Box 515, Chelan, Wash., from April 15 to Nov. 1—No Report.

FIELD, FREEMAN, 223 W. Sixteenth St., Los Angeles, Calif.—Deceased, July 10, 1931.

FREEDMAN, H. Y., 5305 Russell Avenue, Los Angeles 27, Calif.—Much of the time during the year 1949 has been spent by Mrs. Freedman and myself in traveling by motor up and down the states of California and Nevada, and in Mexico, stopping and loafing wherever and whenever the notion or place appealed to us. I still have some interests in Northern California, that require my presence occasionally, so we have made many trips up there. We have finally decided to locate here in Los Angeles, this place seeming to offer the most in gracious living, and about as much in good climate as we could expect to find elsewhere. It has been our very good fortune to enjoy good health considering our years, and the freedom from cares or responsibilities has been a very welcome change from our former accustomed standard of living. We have just about completed getting settled in our new home, and intend to run out to see Roy Coombs very shortly. I want to convey to you my appreciation of your service in keeping up the annual bulletin, and best regards to all the members of the Class of 1897.


FORD, DELBERT E., 2233 East 70th St., Chicago 49, Ill.—Regret I have no startling news to report and make the bulletin more interesting. Life with me, since I lost my wife in 1947, is mostly a drab affair and I have no particular desire to remain on this
old sphere, but being healthier than the average man of my age (74) presume I will have to stick around for awhile longer. Have no desire to step on the political toes of any class member, but frankly I am so fed up with our present National Government, I am seriously considering moving south of the border into Old Mexico where I know I can get a few acres of land and a couple of servants at a moderate cost, build a shack, go hunting and fishing without paying a tax on my catch and possibly enjoy a few more years of my expectancy. It would probably be unwise for a man in your position to approve of my sentiments, but should you decide to follow in my footsteps, or any other of my classmates who read this decide they would like to join me, please understand the latch string will be hanging on the outside of the door. They have very few door locks in Mexico. Kindest regards and best wishes for your continued success and prosperity.

FOUTS, ROBERT M., Paradise Calif.—Deceased, April 25, 1943.

GALEN, ALBERT J., Helena, Mont.—Deceased, May 16, 1936.

GEORGE, RANSOM G., 687 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.—My beloved wife passed away on December 12th, 1948, after a gradually failing condition of many months, and I find it practically impossible to adjust myself to new conditions. We had been married more than 44 years, and I am now in my 80th year. It is understood that these things must come to us all, but this knowledge does not greatly ease the shock. I do not wish to seem too gloomy, for life has still many bright spots, and I know that if I were active in business I should not be so depressed. I trust you will receive a goodly number of replies, and I shall await with interest your report. Best wishes to all the class, and particularly to yourself.

HANDY, JAMES S., 5409 Harper Ave., Chicago, Ill.—Deceased, September 27, 1941.

HARPER, DAVID N., 205 East Laurel St., Garden City, Kan.—If you prepare a Class Bulletin this year give my address as 205 E. Laurel St., Garden City, Kansas, where I have mail sent, to be forwarded when I happen to be in Arizona, New Mexico or west Texas. The last few years I have been down in the southwest on account of asthma, getting some, but not entire relief. I stopped off at Las Vegas, N. M., and called on our classmate Albert Rogers with whom I spent very pleasantly the one evening I was there. He has been very successful in his practice and expressed the opinion that a small place has an advantage over a large city, especially in the matter of pleasant living.

HARRISON, GEORGE B., 1019 Grand Ave., Kansas City, Mo.—Deceased, March 4, 1930.

HART, WILLIAM L., 135 Overlook Drive, Alliance, Ohio, and State House Annex, Columbus 15, Ohio—I have just completed my eleventh year on the Supreme Court of Ohio. Have one more year on my second term. Have announced my candidacy for re-election, primaries next May 2nd and election next November
7th. I was remarried last January to Nova E. Westfall of Alliance, Ohio. We reside during the court year at Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus, Ohio. My two sons Ian Bruce Hart and William L. Hart Jr. are partners engaged in the practice of law under the firm name of Hart & Hart at Canton, Ohio. By invitation of the Association, I gave an address at the annual convention of the National Convention of Claimant's Compensation Attorneys at Cleveland, O., on September 12, 1949. I have not had the pleasure of meeting any classmate during the year, but I have had several letters from classmate, Charles L. Bartlett.

HAYES, HENRY N., 1179 South 15th St., Salt Lake City, Utah—Deceased.

HILLS, CHARLES W., 2400 Prairie Ave., Miami Beach, Fla.—You have rendered a wonderful service to each one of your classmates by keeping us in touch with each other through their reports, and I cannot express to you the appreciation that is expressed by the class members, and by myself, of the great value of these reports in keeping them in touch with all the members of the Class, and also as a reminder that we should each get on our toes to play our part as finely as you have played yours. I know we each thank you profoundly. My report this year will have to detail that I am still plodding along in the tenth year of my rather ill health following two operations ten years ago. After the death of my son, Charles W. Hills, Jr., our partnership was re-organized and my nephew Carlton Hills, also a graduate of the University in electrical and mechanical engineering, was selected as the managing partner of our Firm. He has done wonderfully well. The business is larger than ever. While I personally am unable to give them much aid except through counsel it has become one of the largest firms in our particular line of practice. There have been certain changes in the patent law that have not made the work any easier for the attorneys but at least it brings in new elements, and while some of the things enacted do not seem to me to be wise in their final results so far as the inventor or the country is concerned, nevertheless it keeps our men studying, and I will confess very few of us have any idea of what Congress may do next in the attempt to tear down the Patent system. There is a communistic and socialistic attitude and it would seem it will take some little time before the Patent Law can be rescued from some of the experiments that are being tried. Of course a great deal of this comes about from some of the loading of our courts with New Deal judges, men who usually know very little of the patent practice but who would like to tinker with it, and so new things are being injected into the law from time to time that to most of the old lawyers who have practiced for years are firmly convinced will in time be wiped from the statutes. There is nothing very new for me to report except my heart apparently has not been entirely free from some weakness and I have had several fairly severe heart attacks. From each, however, I quite promptly recuperated to some extent, and we have a first-class physician who says, and I think justly, that I should reduce my weight and in consequence we have taken 25 lbs. off my weight in the last year. I
think that will prove a betterment. The doctor condemned me, about six weeks ago, to at least thirty days confined to my room, so behold me sitting in my room and dictating this letter to you, wishing I could see all the boys again, yourself particularly, and wondering if I should be able to come to Ann Arbor at the next reunion. That is something I cannot decide now, neither will the physicians give me any information, but you may rest assured if I can manage it I will come to Ann Arbor when you have the next reunion. You have seen my home here in Miami Beach and you know how we have tried to get an abundance of flowers. This year I obtained about 100 new varieties of roses, many of them patented. Here is another innovation, nowadays plants of any kind if new and useful are subject to patent the same as a piece of machinery or a chemical process. In any event, these roses are very beautiful and I am just hoping I had some way in which I could have yourself and others of the Class members down here at some time during the season when you might see what a really beautiful place Miami Beach can be. Most of the time I am feeling pretty well and the physicians tell me that if I am patient notwithstanding Time is taking its toll of me, that I shall be considerably better. You know, I was born June 23, 1860. This makes this year my 90th year. I am only 89 years old but counting birthdays at both ends of the period it gives me my 90th year. I am not going to promise how much farther I shall follow the trail, but I hope I shall stick around as long as any of our Class members and good friends can find it possible to look in on us. I have a pleasant home and I should love to have any of our classmates come down and make me a visit. I wish to extend to all the members of the Class my best wishes and heartiest good will, and I join with all the members of the Class in wishing for you, our President of the Class, abundant happiness and long continued good health.

KOCOUREK, ALBERT, 448 Wisconsin Ave., Beloit, Wis.—I am at present in Miami and expect to go over to Haiti before returning to the cold North. I hope you receive this report in time for the Bulletin. Warm season’s greetings to you, to Mrs. Hart and all the members of our class.

LAWTON, CHARLES T., Toledo, Ohio—Deceased, June 13, 1929.
LONG, WILLIAM M.—Deceased. 1909.
LUX, ARTHUR W.—Deceased, September 25, 1910.
MILLER, HARRY A., Duane at Lorraine, Glen Ellyn, Ill.—Deceased.
MILROY, CHARLES M., Toledo, Ohio—Deceased, December 12, 1931.
MINER, KARL R., Newton, Conn.—Deceased, August 28, 1947.
NORRIS, JAMES T., Wilkinsburg, Pa.—“James Timothy Norris LL.B. died at Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, May 29, 1949, aged 72.”
ORTON, JESSE F., 89-10, 35th Ave., Jackson Heights, N. Y.—There has been little change since my report of last year. My health continues very good and I am still keeping some of the more
desirable legal work. Being in Detroit last June, I went on to Ann Arbor for Commencement. Although there was no class reunion and none of the '97 Class were present, with the help of the Emeritus Club I found a considerable number of old friends and made some new friends. I hope all members of our class will plan to be at the 55 year reunion in 1952.

PADLEY, W. H., Reardan, Wash.—It is over half a century since we were graduated at Ann Arbor. Many of our class have passed away, I think approximately one half remain. I believe that we are very fortunate that our lives fell into the period in which we have lived. We have enjoyed the numerous scientific and mechanical discoveries and inventions that improved conditions of life over those of the older days. Only recently have we discovered that physical science is likely to be applied to a degree that will destroy our civilization, unless it can be restrained by some adequate mental, moral or spiritual force; call it what you will. I do not think that I am pessimistic, but the future does not look as bright to me as the past. I spent some time in Michigan very pleasantly last fall, and was in Ann Arbor several times. I was there the day before the Army game, but no chance to get a seat. The way the game went, absence was not so disappointing. I was at an alumni meeting in Spokane the day the Ohio State game was played, and we heard it by radio. It was exciting and interesting, but am sorry for the bad break just at the close.

PRATT, JOHN S., Room 2732 Department of Justice, Washington 25, D. C.—Your letter of November 30 requesting my report for the Bulletin came to my desk while I was absent in Honolulu on official business for the Department of Justice. During the past year I have still been busily engaged in my official duties as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General. This has taken me away from Washington on numerous occasions, but for the most part I remain at my desk at the Department. I want to extend my greetings to all the members of my class and to urge them to call on me in Washington on any occasion when they are here.

RILEY, B. T., Paloa, Kan.—Deceased, July 10, 1940.

ROGERS, ALBERT T. JR., Crockett Bldg., Las Vegas, New Mexico—Nothing of importance to report. Have not been so well the past year. Am feeling the ravishes of time, but have been as busy as usual. Had the pleasure of a brief visit by Harper who was enroute to Southern New Mexico and El Paso, Texas. I recently attended to a law case forwarded by a Niles, Michigan attorney, also a University of Michigan law graduate. In a letter he wrote that he envied us older graduates who are able to remember their classmates so well. He said “I believe there must have been a much warmer comradery between the members of the class in those days.” I have written him that Judge Hart, our Class President, is responsible and entitled to the credit for preserving for over a half century the close personal contact between and amongst the members of our class. We owe him a debt of gratitude as I doubt that there is any other class of the University that has been served so faithfully.
RYAN, EMMETT C., Uhrichsville, Ohio—Deceased. Emmett Choate Ryan was born at New Cumberland, Ohio, on August 30, 1867. He attended and graduated from Scio College, Scio, Ohio, and later was Superintendent of Schools at the village of Scio. He entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan in the fall of 1895 and graduated with the law class of 1897. He practiced law for a number of years in Indianapolis and later moved to South Dakota where he practiced for a brief period at Redfield, later moving to Aberdeen, South Dakota. Here he was a partner first of Judge John H. Perry and Judge L. W. Crofoot. Later he organized the firm of Ryan, Sich and Crane at Aberdeen. He was a member of Ohio State, Indiana and South Dakota Bar Associations. He was counsel for the Chicago and North Western Railroad Company and the Federal Land Bank of Omaha. He was active in the Democratic Party, serving as Assistant State's Attorney for a number of years and later was a member of the legislature of South Dakota. He retired from active practice several years ago because of ill health and moved to Uhrichsville, Ohio, where he passed away on January 16, 1949. He was of a literary bent of mind and at the time of his death had completed writing a book of verse. He is survived by his wife, Isabelle, of Uhrichsville, and daughter, Maurine of Washington, D. C.

SALISBURY, DUANE C., Battle Creek, Mich.—Deceased, November 26, 1913.

STANLEY, FRED B., 1025 Chevy Chase Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif.—Deceased, May 17, 1943.

STEARNS, CLAIRE H., Box 1353, Carmel by the Sea, Calif.—Deceased, December 29, 1943.

STEVenson, ARCHIBALD, Rockport, Indiana—Deceased, February 10, 1925.

SHELDON, CLAUDE, Warren, Ohio—Deceased, June 7, 1930.

WEHRLE, EDWARD F., Los Angeles, Calif.—Deceased, May 30, 1941.

WHITE, CHARLES E., 510 North Fourth St., Niles, Mich.—I retired from active practice last January, and have been enjoying myself largely doing nothing. It seems fine to have no responsibilities after over fifty years of an active life. Mrs. White and I spent last winter at Coral Gables, Florida, where we met Mr. and Mrs. Dancer and had some delightful visits with them. We also called on Hills and found him hale and hearty for a man of his age, and enjoying life to its fullest extent. We are again returning to Coral Gables next month and hope to see him again. Hills certainly gets a great kick from seeing his old classmates.

WILLIAMS, ROY H., Sandusky, Ohio—Deceased, December 18, 1946.