Class of 1897

Class Bulletin no. 55: Law Class of 1897

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Class Bulletin
Law Class of 1897
University of Michigan
ABBOTT, CHARLES F., Middlebury, Vt.—Deceased, April 27, 1929.

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

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


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


Mrs. Mary C. Bartlett is now teaching in the Detroit public schools and resides at 644 West Bethune, Detroit 2, Mich.


BLACKBURN, JAMES H., Mt. Vernon, Ind.—I have nothing new to report for the bulletin, however, I wish to extend my good wishes to all our classmates and to you especially for keeping our bulletin. I have one more year to serve as Circuit Judge and just what I will do after my term expires I am not certain. Please extend my good wishes to all the others.

BODMAN, HENRY E., 1400 Buhl Bldg., Detroit, Mich.—I was glad to receive your letter and to know that you are still functioning as a member of the Ohio Supreme Court and that you are still generous enough of your time to circularize the members of the Class. Nothing of consequence has happened to me during the past year which would be of interest to the other members. I sit by as a spectator during the terrifying world events, wishing that I might be of more influence in guiding our people in such a way as to avoid being over-whelmed by them. The most that I can do is to lend some assistance to those who are trying to keep our country from being swept into the maelstrom of a world government, which I am certain is the goal of the United Nations. I still feel that our constitutions, Federal and State, are the best safeguards of our fundamental rights and that no treaty which we
will be asked to sign should be allowed to be a substitute for those safeguards. My best wishes to you and the other members of the Class.


COOMBS, ROY R., 1011 Tivy St., Kerrville, Texas—As I told you before, I came here for my health. California was too damp for me and the traffic is terrible. Every time I drove a car there, I came home a nervous wreck. I like it here. We have good roads, scenery is beautiful and traffic light so you can enjoy your ride and look around all you like. This is a city of 10,000 located 63 miles from San Antonio, a city of 500,000. We are located in the hills of Texas. It is a health resort town. Lots of game here, deer and wild turkey. We had a friend visit us from Cleveland. She had never seen a deer in the open. I told her the hunting opened here Nov. 16th so the hunters had been busy and we might not see any deer, but we saw 25 deer and a flock of wild turkeys, 18 turkeys in the flock. I have hunted all my life and here I am in this game country and too old to hunt. I just sit on the side lines. This world is getting more cockeyed every day. More thieves and liars in high places are being discovered. Hope I don’t get the habit. I told my wife we would have to keep our mouths shut down here as they are all Democrats. I was mistaken. I have talked to a good many people here and they all cuss Truman. If the south don’t put up a candidate Texas will go Republican. Dewey, Duff and Lodge will try and throw a monkey wrench in the Taft machinery. If I were Dewey and had made the school boy campaign he made, I would at least keep my mouth shut. In the last campaign there was no issue, consequently thousands of Republicans didn’t vote. Truman don’t want his foreign policy made an issue in the coming campaign. Who would? He will hear plenty. Just wait until Gen. MacArthur gets through with him. I’m afraid of two things; viz: that Truman won’t run and if he does run he will get us in a war with Russia before election.

DANCER, HERBERT A., 1000 Alworth Bldg., Duluth, Minn.—Another quiet year is ending. Have seen none of the class during the year. Am still very busy when in Duluth but perhaps I do not turn out work as rapidly as I once did. I am leaving next week for Palm Beach where Mrs. Dancer and I have a bungalow and will spend our winters in the future. I am terribly worried about the future of our country and do not believe it is only because I am getting old. Taft is the smartest man in Washington. Eisenhower expresses no worthwhile opinions except military ones. Stassen is an idealist very much wrapped up in his own personal ambitions, and the general public will elect Truman next year unless he is afraid to run. I happened to be in Kansas City years ago on the day when old Tom Pendergast was buried and I was shocked and horrified to learn that the Vice President of the United States was there to attend his funeral. Subsequent events have not made me feel I was unduly concerned.
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—It has always been a pleasure to receive the Annual Report which you have so generously published and sent to all members of the Class. A year ago last summer I had serious trouble with my eyes and was kept in Portland under an eye specialist until after the first of the year and this was the reason that you did not hear from me last year. I regret to report that this year they have not improved, otherwise my health is good. I am still interested in the Sheep business but do have to call on my son to manage the business. I still have our summer home on Lake Chelan and winter home in Walla Walla. I would be very pleased if any members of the class come this way to have them drop in and visit with us.

FIELD, FREEMAN, Los Angeles, Calif.—Deceased, Jan. 10, 1931.

FREEDMAN, HARRY Y., 2366 Panorama Terrace, Los Angeles 39, Calif.—It gives me pleasure to report that the year 1951 has been a good, kind one to me. Fortunately I have enjoyed excellent health which has enabled me to pursue such activities and occupations as have appealed to me; have been privileged to bask in this wonderful California sunshine; to remain at home or to roam the highways and byways as fancy dictates; to catch up on some of my long neglected reading; and to render such odd bits of service as lies within my limited powers and abilities for some who were in need of same. In other words I have learned to be a very good loafer and to like my newly acquired vocation. Having definitely decided to make Los Angeles our permanent place of abode, Mrs. Freedman and I have acquired a new home here, and have spent some very pleasant hours in furnishing and redecorating it. Roy Coombs moved to Kernville, Texas, and I hear from him occasionally. He reports that his health is much better there than it was when he resided in Los Angeles. Kindly give my regards and best wishes to all the boys of 97Law, and accept my thanks to you for continuing the report.


FORD, DELBERT E., 2233 East 70th St., Chicago 49, Ill.—Time seems to fly as one grows older. At least that is the way it is with me. Seems only a short time ago I made my last report to you. Be that as it may be, I am glad to report I am still alive and extend greetings to all members of the class who are hanging around on this old sphere, including yourself. If an honest Republican President is not elected in 1952, then I would not object in joining our class mates who have already passed over the “Great Divide,” for we would be better off than those left here under the present regime. You will probably say I am just getting old and crabby, but even so I could still shoulder a musket and a six shooter in my belt if some one had the guts to start a revolution.

FOUTS, ROBERT M., Paradise, Calif.—Deceased, April 25, 1943.
GALEN, ALBERT J., Helena, Mont.—Deceased, May 16, 1936.


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

HARPER, DAVID N., 205 East Laurel St., Garden City, Kan.—No report.

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

HART, WILLIAM L., 135 Overlook Drive, Alliance, Ohio, and State House Annex, Columbus 15, Ohio—Have just completed my thirteenth year on the Supreme Court of Ohio. Health has been good and my work heavy, but most interesting. My opinions appear in Ohio State Reports, and North Eastern Reporter. Last summer when Dr. Harlan Hatcher was elected President of the University of Michigan, a group picture of himself, three other Columbus alumni and myself was taken at his Ohio State University office, and this group picture appeared as the front cover picture of the Michigan Alumnus of June 9, 1951. I was deputized to represent my Alma Mater, Mount Union College, Alliance, Ohio, at the inauguration of Dr. Hatcher as president of the University at Ann Arbor on Tuesday, November 27, a very notable occasion in the life of the university. Mrs. Hart and I motored from Alliance to Ann Arbor on Monday, Nov. 26 and spent two interesting days there, enjoying comfortable quarters at the Michigan Union. We, as special guests, attended the inauguration dinner, the inaugural ceremonies and the reception to Dr. and Mrs. Hatcher. We motored back to Columbus on Wednesday, Nov. 28. While in Ann Arbor we met many alumni and friends, including Dr. and Mrs. Hatcher, President Emeritus Alexander Ruthven, Dean E. Blythe Stason of the Law School and Alumni Secretary T. Hawley Tapping. Our 55 year class reunion will be held at Ann Arbor in June, 1952. Notice of date, etc., will be mailed to each member. Make preparations to attend.

HAYES, HENRY N., Salt Lake City, Utah—Deceased.

HILLS, CHARLES W., Miami Beach, Fla.—Deceased April 2, 1950.

KOCOUREK, ALBERT, 448 Wisconsin Ave., Beloit, Wis.—There is little to report. I am at present in Miami, Fla. The weather here has been very pleasant. So far as I know my general health is good. Last June the University of Kentucky conferred on me the LL. D. degree. Cordial greetings to all surviving members of our class.

LAWTON, CHARLES T., Toledo, Ohio—Deceased, June 13, 1929.


LUX, ARTHUR W.—Deceased, September 25, 1910.
MILLER, HARRY A., 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.—Deceased May 29, 1949.

ORTON, JESSE F., 89-10, 35th Ave., Jackson Heights, N.Y.—There has been little change in my way of life since the report of last year. I am still doing some work in securing reduction of real property assessments, with quite satisfactory results. My health is reasonably good, though with more frequent visits to the doctor. Mrs. Orton's health is also fairly good and her 1951 book was recently published, "Mystery Over the Brick Wall," for children 7 to 11. Our son Douglas has recently been promoted, to be Secretary of the Borden (milk) Company and its many affiliated corporations. I hope that all of our fifteen surviving members can be present at the 55th year Reunion, to be held next June. My kindest regards to all Classmates.

PADLEY, W. H., Reardan, Wash.—I am writing in reply to your letter about the Class Bulletin. You certainly are worthy of great commendation for the publication of the Bulletin through all the years since we left Ann Arbor. We are getting old, but I still maintain my office and think that I shall do so as long as my health is good and it is very good at this time. A week ago we held a meeting of the U of M Alumni Association in Spokane. The Society is not as large as it was when I came here, fifty years ago. However, there is a reason for that. At that time few colleges in the west were well developed and many students went to the eastern institutions. Michigan was outstanding and a large percentage of students from the west went to Ann Arbor. But our little society is, I think, doing some good work and keeps in close touch with the University. Regards to all classmates.

PRATT, JOHN S., Room 2732 Department of Justice, Washington 25, D.C.—During the month of January I shall have completed 31 years of service in the Department of Justice. That service has not been continuous, having been interrupted for a period of years on two occasions. However, it is a long time, and I have concluded that it is certainly long enough to devote to public service. I have therefore sent in my resignation as Special Assistant to the Attorney General, effective on February 1, 1952, and on that date I shall become one of a great army of retired Federal officials. After a customary Florida vacation I expect to return after a while to Toledo, the city of my birth, and perhaps practice law a little—but not too much—just enough to avoid the disintegration that too frequently accompanies indolent retirement. Fortunately, both Mrs. Pratt and I are in excellent health.

RILEY, B. T., Paloa, Kan.—Deceased, July 10, 1940.
ROGERS, ALBERT T. JR., Crockett Bldg., Las Vegas, New Mexico—No report.


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

STANLEY, FRED B., Beverly Hills, Calif.—Deceased, May 17, 1943.

STEARNS, CLAIRE H., 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.—Your letter of December 3rd at hand. There is very little for me to report. Since retiring from the firm on January 1, 1950, I have done little or nothing but sit on the front porch and watch the procession go by. Much to my surprise, I have really enjoyed doing nothing. I still keep up my membership in the State Bar and occasionally act as counsel in some matters of the old firm. During the past year Mrs. White's eyesight has failed to the extent that she can do scarcely nothing except see sufficiently to get around, but that is about all. In view of Mrs. White's eyesight, we will not be able to go south for the winter. You do not say anything in your letter about another effort to get the surviving members of our class together for another five-year reunion, which would naturally occur in the year 1952. Kindest personal regards to all our classmates. Note—Reunion is announced for next June—Editor).

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