Class of 1897

Class Bulletin no. 56: Law Class of 1897

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Class Bulletin
Law Class of 1897
University of Michigan

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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.


BARTLETT, CHARLES L., Detroit, Mich.—Deceased, July 14, 1951. Mrs. Mary C. Bartlett, his widow resides at 9686 Burnette, Detroit 4, Mich., and sends greetings to all classmates.


BLACKBURN, JAMES H., Mt. Vernon, Ind.—No report.

BODMAN, HENRY E., 1400 Buhl Bldg., Detroit, Michigan—In view of your statement that approximately one-third of the class members are still alive, it must be that they are blessed with unusual vitality. It is most amazing when I consider the kind of times we have been living in with their unusual strains and continuing emergencies. So far as I am concerned there is little of interest to relate. Naturally one’s activities become less and of less importance to the world as time goes on. You, my dear friend, are the shining exception to the rule—much to my surprise and satisfaction. The past year has brought us, I hope, a release from many of our afflictions. It was certainly time for a change. In fact that change was long overdue. Up to the time of the Republican convention I was a strong Taft man and perhaps that was why I was asked to head the Michigan Citizens Committee for Taft. I was extremely disappointed at the result of the convention, but I am frank to say I think I was wrong about it. General Eisenhower did something for us that no other candidate could have done to extricate us from the political mess
we have been in and to unify many discordant elements of our country. I only hope that he will be spared, at least long enough to fill out his four year term. I hope we may meet again in Ann Arbor in June. If another reunion is held it will be due to your continued unselfish interest.


COOMBS, ROY R., Kerrville, Texas—I can't think of anything that happened to me during the last year that is of much interest. All I've done is loaf and try to regain my health. I am glad to tell you I have no hay fever here and my asthma is much better. We have a huge Veteran's Hospital here for T. B. patients only. So you can see what a wonderful climate we have. On Nov. 5th I had a birthday and celebrated my birthday and the election on the same day. I answered the phone a few days ago and much to my surprise found our classmate Dave Harper on the wire. He said he was at the hotel and wanted me to come down. Of course I went down immediately. We took a nice ride through these beautiful hills, then came back to our apartment, got Mrs. Coombs and went out to dinner. The next morning Dave called up and said he was going to El Paso. A couple of days ago I received a letter saying he was coming back here to spend the winter. He has a very bad case of asthma. Hope he can get some relief here. Wish all the class a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

DANCER, HERBERT A., 100 Alworth Bldg., Duluth, Minn.—No report.

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—I regret to say that because of my loss of vision and being confined to a hospital last year I was unable to send a report to you. This year because of lack of improvement in my eyesight I have not been active so there is very little for me to report. My son is managing the business with headquarters at Ephrata, Washington. It is a real pleasure for me to receive your report each year of the activities of all the members of our class which is becoming smaller each year, and I do hope that you will continue this report. We are still living in Walla Walla in the winter and Lake Chelan in the summer and that cordial invitation to all classmates to visit us if they come West, extends as in the past. Mrs. Drumheller and I extend you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

FREEDMAN, H. Y., 2366 Panorama Terrace, Los Angeles 39, Calif.—My first reaction to the receipt of your kind notification that a report is due, is that these years surely roll around mighty fast. Old age is no longer creeping up on us; it is galloping so fast we feel its breath on our necks. It is indeed gratifying to report that
the health of both Mrs. Freedman and myself is very good, and we are really enjoying the quiet, restful seclusion of our new home here in these California hills, and this balmy, sunny weather. I continue to spend my days at the occupation upon which I embarked when I came down here, to wit:—loafling, and to the surprise of most of my ex-associates, not only enjoy it, but thrive on it. We, like millions of others, are much elated over the recent election, and encouraged and confirmed in our belief in Ike, by the quality and caliber of the cabinet members and other appointees selected by him. Kindly convey our compliments and best wishes to all classmates, and a special thanks to our eminent and diligent Judge Hart for his efforts in getting out the report.


FORD, DELBERT E., 2233 East 70th St., Chicago 49, Ill.—Well boys, I am still sticking around, perhaps because I am getting so grouchy and crabby the Lord would not want me to pass through the Pearly Gates to annoy the multitude of dead Truman Democrats. I am trying to retire from active business, but so far only partly successful. May decide to lock the door early next year and go crazy without anything to do. Expect to spend the holidays with my brother—95 U. of M. Law—in New York City and hope to keep sober New Year's Eve.

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.—I have the above as my mailing address but live most of the time in the dry southwest, Arizona, New Mexico and parts of Texas. Recently I was in Kerrville, Texas, where I was royally entertained by Roy Coombs and wife. They have selected a most excellent location. Two years ago I had the pleasure of a visit with Albert Rogers at Las Vegas, N. M. The picture of the Ohio Supreme Court is a remarkable one. Sorry the U. S. Supreme Court can't show one half as good.

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—I have just completed my fourteenth year on the Supreme Court of Ohio. My opinions appear in Vols. 135 to 158 Ohio State Reports and in Vols. 9 to 106 North Eastern Reporter (second series). Two members of our Court, Charles B. Zimmerman and James Garfield Stewart were reelected last fall. I too was pleased to have General Eisenhower elected to the presidency. Last June, classmate Jesse Or-
ton, his good wife, Hellen Fuller Orton, Mary C. Bartlett, widow of classmate Charles C. Bartlett, my wife, Nova Westfall Hart and I spent two wonderful days together on the Michigan Campus. I will elsewhere describe our class reunion activities. The only regret was that the other living members of the class and their wives could not be with us.

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

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

KOCOUREK, ALBERT, Beloit, Wis., ’97—Died of a cerebral hemorrhage at the Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida, on Sunday, June 8, 1952. He practiced law in Chicago from 1897 to 1914 at which time he became a member of the law faculty of Northwestern University Law School and continued his work there as teacher and legal author until 1940 when he became professor emeritus of the law school. He did much research work in connection with his teaching and collaborated with Dean Wigmore in legal authorship. Professor Kocourek was the author of two popular law books, “Jural Relations” and “The Introduction to the Science of Law.” He resided at Wheaton, Illinois, but spent winters in Florida for the past ten years. He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. G. E. Johnson of Beloit, Wisconsin. In June 1951, the University of Kentucky awarded him a citation for meritorious work in legal authorship. On Friday afternoon, October 3, 1952, Northwestern University held a memorial service for classmate Kocourek at Lincoln Hall which was attended by the members of his family and by members of the law faculty and students of the University.

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.—This year’s report is quite similar to those sent for the past two years. My law work takes a small portion of my time, in which I try to reduce the real property taxes of my corporate client to a more reasonable amount. We can usually make a satisfactory settlement with the City. Mrs. Orton and I went to Ann Arbor last June, hoping that all or nearly all of the surviving members
of '97 Law would be present at the 55-year Reunion. Much to our disappointment, none found it possible to come except Judge Hart and myself. However, we found considerable satisfaction in meeting those present, including Mrs. Hart and Mrs. Bartlett, and in finding friends outside of our class. We are both in quite good health and Mrs. Orton is still keeping up the record of a book every year. We are able to report the recent birth of a great-granddaughter, the granddaughter of our son Lawrence. One of his sons is in the Army and the other is in the second year of an engineering course at Cornell University. I am planning to do some writing on a legal subject during the coming year.

PADLEY, W. H., Reardan, Wash.—When you mention that there is less than one third of the Law Class of 97 alive it makes me feel that I would like very much to have the Bulletin continued. It is evident that soon the Class will have passed into history. I can not contribute much of interest to the survivors, but feel that I should answer the roll call. I am still practicing and business is good. Not being much of a rambler, I really scarcely know what I would do should I discontinue practice. As you comment, I realize that we must respond if the Bulletin is to continue, and I want it to continue. Congratulations to you for your loyalty to the Bulletin and class interests.

PRATT, JOHN SHERRING, 1372 North Cove Boulevard, Toledo 6, Ohio—As I previously advised you I retired from the Department of Justice on last January 31, and in June Mrs. Pratt and I moved back to Toledo, the place of my birth. That is all there is to tell. We are both in splendid health. In February we plan to go to the Vinoy Park Hotel in St. Petersburg, Florida, for a month or more—a custom which we have maintained for many years. Best regards to all my classmates.

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

ROGERS, ALBERT T. JR., Crockett Bldg., Las Vegas, New Mexico—Nothing new to report. Still keeping regular office hours, but am cutting down on my work and slackening the pace. I was the youngest member of our class, not quite twenty when graduated, but long since lost the feeling that I am younger than any of the surviving classmates. My son, Waldo H. Rogers, of Albuquerque, was elected to succeed himself as Chief Justice of the Albuquerque District by a handsome majority in a Democratic district. He has made an enviable judicial record the past two years. I marvel that you have the pep to so promptly attend to the class bulletin work with your judicial duties so heavy. I believe that no other member of the class would have rendered such faithful service. I am sure I would not have done so, and I am some years younger than you. I hope you may enjoy many years more of life's happiness, with full possession of all your faculties unimpaired by overwork. Best Wishes to all surviving classmates.

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.

SHELTON, 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.—There is really nothing important for me to report as nothing unusual has happened to me and my family this past year. I am still rusting out with my old age but have nothing to complain of. I had begun to believe that I would not live long enough to see the election of another administration excepting a New Deal or a Fair Deal one. However, the unexpected really happened last November and all right-minded citizens should feel very thankful and look forward to the future with renewed hope. It certainly will be a great day for the country on January 20th next when our Harry finally moves out. I want to express my appreciation to you for keeping our class bulletin alive. You certainly are deserving of a great deal of credit for keeping the members of our class in touch with each other over the years.

WILLIAMS, ROY H., Sandusky, Ohio—Deceased, December 18, 1946.
FIFTY-FIVE YEAR REUNION, LAW '97

There were but fifty members of the University of Michigan Law Class of 1897. Fourteen of these survive.

A fifty-five-year class reunion of this class was held at Ann Arbor in connection with commencement exercises on June 12-14. But two of the members of the class with their wives were able to be present, Jesse F. Orton and wife of New York City and Judge William L. Hart and wife of Alliance, Ohio, together with Mary C. Bartlett, the widow of classmate Charles L. Bartlett of Detroit.

The five representatives of the class attended the all-class dinner at the Michigan Union on Friday evening, June 12. The next morning the group met in Hutchins Hall for the regular class get-together. While in session word came that classmate, Albert Kocourek, former law teacher for many years in the law school of Northwestern University, had passed away in Miami, Florida, on the previous Sunday, June 8th.

On Friday afternoon the reunion group attended and greatly enjoyed the reception given by President and Mrs. Harlan Hatcher at their home on South University Avenue. On Friday evening the group attended the Emeritus Club dinner. On Saturday morning the group attended the induction ceremonies of the Emeritus Club at which all members of the class of 1902 present and members of prior classes present who had not received certificates and Block M awards, received them. At this meeting President Hatcher made a brief address. At noon the members of the reunion group attended the University Alumni luncheon and enjoyed the festivities of that occasion.

Our reunion group was small in numbers, but we immensely enjoyed our association together for three days on the beautiful Michigan campus.