Class of 1897

Class Bulletin no. 57: Law Class of 1897

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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.


BLACKBURN, JAMES H., Mt. Vernon, Ind.—I thank you for continuing our Class Bulletin. For my report I must tell you that my dear wife passed away on last February 2nd, after having been confined to her bed for almost three and one half years. About the middle of November, last year, I suffered a rather general and serious break-down of my health which put me in the hospital for about ten weeks. I was still there when my wife passed away. I left the hospital the latter part of February and have since been living a lonely life in our home, but well cared for and looked after by my sister, Miss Lura Blackburn and our housekeeper, Miss Hulda Brandt, who, fortunately, had been with us for fifteen years. In the spring we went to Florida, hoping the warm sunshine would help to build me up, but we ran into worse weather than we were having at home. Since coming back home I have been improving wonderfully and have almost completely recovered my strength and health. I have several attractive offers to get back into practice, but I think I have had enough. Fifty years of practice and six years on the bench is about all I want. I consider myself retired and intend to take things easy to the end. My sincere regards and good wishes to you, Brother Hart, and all the remaining classmates.
BODMAN, HENRY E., 1400 Buhl Bldg., Detroit, Mich.—As time goes on, there is naturally less to report of interest. My astonishment increases as I continue to receive the annual letter and find that you are still continuing to serve the people of your state as Judge of its Supreme Court, and that your loyalty to the class does not abate. On the contrary, it continues as intense as ever. Ohio has contributed very greatly to the success of the University of Michigan by sending us Harlan Hatcher to become its President. His administration has continued long enough to demonstrate his peculiar fitness to discharge the functions of this position and in common with other alumni, I continue to feel gratified over his appointment. Please extend my greetings and best wishes to the other members of our class and be assured of my gratitude for your continued interest.

Editor’s Note: Ohio is proud to give to the University of Michigan as its president a profound scholar and able administrator in Dr. Hatcher.


COOMBS, ROY R., Kerrville, Texas—Your letter received. I was amazed to learn there were only about a dozen of us left. To you, Judge Hart, we are grateful for keeping the Class Bulletin going all these years. “Time marches on.” He certainly has been marching with me for the past six months. I have been very sick with a severe attack of arthritis which had me helpless for weeks. I seem to be getting better slowly and hope to be able to join you again next year. Kindest regards to all classmates.

DANCER, HERBERT A., 1000 Alworth Bldg., Duluth, Minn.—It seems to me that I live a very uneventful life, as shown by our bulletins. I am still practicing law with my name at the head of the firm, although my five partners are much more active than I. We are in general practice, doing everything except criminal law and an occasional divorce case. Mrs. Dancer and I spend the winters at 274 Monterey Road, Palm Beach, Florida, where we would like to see our classmates more often. Our grandson has entered the University of Michigan as a pre-med. His father is however a graduate of the University of Berlin, with an advanced degree, so that there is a break in our family in the fourth generation of University of Michigan students. Thank you again for keeping us informed of our lives.

DRUMHELLER, THOMAS J., Box 538 Walla Walla, Washington.—Your letter asking me for my report arrived the day we were leaving for Portland, Oregon to see my doctor and we have just returned home. There is very little for me to report that differs from last year except that my eyesight is completely gone, otherwise my health is normal. This year not being able to travel, we will spend the winter in our home in Walla Walla and next summer we will be back at our home on Lake Chelan where we will be glad to welcome any classmate that could visit us. I do appreciate your report each year of the life and whereabouts of all our
William L. Hart
Judge of the Supreme Court of Ohio
State House Annex
Columbus 15, Ohio
classmates. While I have been rather slow in answering your letters in the past I always look forward to your Report of all our old classmates of '97. To you and all classmates A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

FORD, DELBERT E., 2233 East 70th St., Chicago 49, Ill.—Slowness in answering your letter of Dec. 1st may cause you to think I have “kicked the bucket” but “taint” so. Only the good die young and I am now on the way to my 79th birthday next July 8th and hope I will make the grade without having to pay too many parking tickets to support our corrupt police department. Being a widower for nearly seven years and living alone in a five room apartment gets very monotonous. I am frequently tempted to buy an acre of ground in nearby Indiana, build a shack in which I can keep a cow and some Plymouth Rock chickens for sustenance, and watch the television until I just shrivel up and blow away without any one missing my passing over the Great Divide, except the Undertaker. Sincerely hope this finds you and yours enjoying the finest of health. Maybe we can get together at Ann Arbor in 1957.

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

FREEDMAN, H. Y., 2366 Panorama Terrace, Los Angeles 39, Calif.—Since making my last report nothing of importance has happened to me. Both Mrs. Freedman and I have enjoyed fairly good health during the year, but we have slowed down on our travels. The highways are so crowded and so pestered with reckless drivers that motoring here is fast losing its appeal for us. No doubt advancing years have something to do with our surfeit with the lure of adventure. Health, happiness and contentment are our present goals. Of the first, health, we must acknowledge we have been quite fortunate in having been blessed with good, strong constitutions to start with, and also in having always lived moderately and in moderation. As for Happiness, wise men, theologians, philosophers and practical politicians throughout the ages have discussed much on the theory of it, more or less oblivious of the mass of humanity who did not prate of it so much as practice it. The Foundation Fathers of the American Republic, who combined idealism with a rare degree of common sense, took care not to enshrine it in the Constitution as a God-given right, as so many new and fair dealers contend. Rather they guaranteed posterity only the freedom in which to join in “the pursuit of happiness.” It is a lively chase. None ever caught it without running. It adjusts its pace to the pursuer. Happiness, we find, is not so much getting everything one wants, as making the most of what one gets. In other words each one's happiness is up to him. We are blissfully content to take each day in its stride, and really enjoy such blessings as are allotted to us, which we concede are many, here in this wonderful Southern California. Kindest regards to all
the "Boys of '97 Law" and special thanks to you for your work on the report which we look for with fond and curious anticipation.


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


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

HARPER, DAVID N., 5524 Locust Street, Kansas City, Mo.—Your letter of December 1st has just reached me at Gateway Hotel at El Paso, Tex. I have been moving around in this dry southwest trying to get as much relief as possible from my asthma. Thank you for the wonderful work you have done for our class. No other class president has had such a record. Albert Rogers and Roy Coombs are the only class members I have seen in twenty years or more. I hope they are both well. I often look at the photo of the Ohio Supreme Court and I am sure it must serve the state well.

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 fifteenth year on the Supreme Court of Ohio. My opinions appear in Vols. 135 to 160 Ohio State Reports and in Vols. 9 to 113 North Eastern Reporter (second series.) Last year it fell to my lot to write the opinion in State Ex. Rel. Classic Pictures vs. Hissong, Supt. Ohio Department of Education, 159 Ohio St., 315, in which our court sustained the power of Ohio Board of Censors to censor motion picture films prior to exhibition in Ohio as not infringing the right of freedom of speech and the press. The picture involved was "M," portraying abduction, extortion and murder by a schizophrenic killer who is treated with sympathy, and an underworld boss is depicted as vastly more efficient than the police. The Supreme Court of the United States admitted this case on certiorari and it will be interesting to observe how much my opinion will be torn to pieces in the decision of that court. Judge Edward S. Matthia, a member of our court for thirty-nine years died in November. My youngest brother, Raymond Hart of Lisbon, Ohio, passed away on the 17th day of December. The State of Ohio during the past year has been celebrating its Sesquicentennial of statehood, and as a feature of this observance, our court held its session on March 3, in the old State House at Chillicothe, the original capital of Ohio. On April 29, 1953, Dean E. Blythe Stason of the Michigan Law School, Judge George E. Bushnell of the Supreme Court of Michigan, Harrison Tweed, of New York, President of the American Law Institute and I acted as judges in judging the final arguments presented by the law clubs of the law school in Hutchins Hall at Ann Arbor. Mrs.
Hart and I attended the annual dinner in the evening. The main address of the evening was given by Harrison Tweed. Both Mrs. Hart and I are enjoying good health.

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

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

KOCOUREK, ALBERT, Beloit, Wis.—Deceased June 8, 1952.

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.—As stated in recent reports, I am not practicing law, but am doing a little law work, in March and October, for an old client, a corporation, to prevent excessive taxes. Mrs. Orton and I have done a little traveling, spending a week in Chicago in May, for an Authors’ convention, and several days in Lockport, N. Y., for her class reunion. We are both quite well and she is now at work on her thirty-third annual book. We now have a grandson in his third year at Cornell University, and a granddaughter at Denver, Colo. I am a member of the University of Michigan Club of New York. It has a rather large list of members and I enjoy meeting with them. I hope to see all our surviving members at our next reunion in ’57.

PADLEY, W. H., Reardan, Washington—Conditions remain the same as at my last report. I am still in practice. But while my health is fairly good considering age, I have decided to discontinue practice at the beginning of the year when I will close my office. I have little to report that would be of any interest to the remaining members of the class; excepting to say that I consider Father Time has been very kind and considerate. Nothing has transpired in the past year that would be of interest to the survivors. However, I wish to express my sincere good wishes to the remainder of the class, and to you, Brother Hart, my sincere appreciation of the magnificent work you have done in connection with the Bulletin, for which you have received no consideration except the knowledge of having done the work exceedingly well.

PRATT, JOHN SHERRING, 1372 North Cove Boulevard, Toledo 6, Ohio.—I have little to report. I am enjoying my semi-retirement. I still have the semblance of an office in Toledo, but rely on as-
sociates to take care of the routine. I expect to spend most of February and March at the Vinoy Park Hotel in St. Petersburg, Florida, thus demonstrating a high degree of indolence. My best regards to all of our surviving classmates.

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

ROGERS, JR., ALBERT T., Crockett Bldg., Las Vegas, New Mexico.—Am still practicing at the same old stand, a section of this building built for our firm some 53 years ago. Naturally at my age, altho the youngest member of our class, I have slowed down quite a bit and try to confine my practice to office work, such as land titles, counseling etc., but do handle numerous probate matters and suits to quiet land titles. In contested litigation, especially jury cases, I usually associate with me a good trial lawyer as I have had more than my share of that strenuous type of practice. However, I do personally try water right and irrigation cases in which I spent most of my early years of practice, a specialty not in the usual line of practice. I have had no unusual or interesting experiences during the past year. I did attend the annual meeting of the New Mexico Bar Association at Albuquerque in October, and met Mr. Jameson, President of the American Bar Association, who addressed our convention. My son Waldo is still chief District Judge of the Second Judicial District, Albuquerque, and is held in high esteem. He declined appointment to the Supreme Court recently, preferring the more active life of District Judge. He has been frequently mentioned as a candidate for Governor on the Republican ticket in 1954 but prefers judicial work. As one newspaper recently put it: “It is waste of time to try to persuade him to leave judicial work.” We are all conscious of a great debt of gratitude we owe you for continuing our Class Bulletin all these years. I doubt that there is any other class in our school whose President has so faithfully served his fellow-classmates. Have not heard from any of the “boys” during the past year. When I received your last Bulletin I intended to write a short note of greeting to each of our surviving class-mates, but like New Year’s resolutions it has been “fulfillment deferred.” It is sad to contemplate the rapidly thinning of our ranks, but we must yield to the inevitable. I was happy to receive your call for an annual report but I wonder when and how soon we may not be able to respond to such call. However, we have been bountifully blessed with active and productive years far beyond the Biblical allotment, for which I am sure we are all duly thankful. It is rather wished than hoped for that we may have many more years of active and useful life. Greetings to all classmates, and sincerest regards and best wishes to you for many more years of happiness, and I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.


SALISBURY, DUANE C., Battle Creek, Mich.—Deceased, November 26, 1913.
SHELDON, CLAUDE, Warren, Ohio—Deceased, June 7, 1930.

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.

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

WHITE, CHARLES E., 510 North Fourth St., Niles, Mich.—I have just received your letter regarding our annual report. There is nothing for me to report except the state of health of Mrs. White and myself. For the past two years, Mrs. White has been losing her eye sight and she can hardly see to get around the house. As for myself, I guess I am gradually wearing out. My legs become weak so that I have difficulty in getting around. It is really wonderful that all these years you have been willing to keep our class bulletin alive. While there are still a few of us to send in the annual report, it does one a lot of good to keep hearing the annual report from the remaining members of the class. Please extend to all the remaining classmates the best regards from Mrs. White and myself.

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