Class of 1894

January Special Bulletin, 1944

Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.law.umich.edu/class_pubs

Part of the Legal Education Commons

Recommended Citation

"January Special Bulletin, 1944" (1894). Yearbooks & Class Year Publications. 156.
https://repository.law.umich.edu/class_pubs/156

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Law School History and Publications at University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Yearbooks & Class Year Publications by an authorized administrator of University of Michigan Law School Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact mlaw.repository@umich.edu.
For personal reasons and reasons apparent to every member of the 1894 Law Class of the University of Michigan and this topsyturvy world at large, no regular Bulletins have been prepared and flown to the four winds of late, or shortly after our 1939 Reunion. We are rapidly approaching the scheduled time for our 1944 Reunion, however, and the matter should be considered seriously and at once. At the time of the Commencement Exercises at the University at Ann Arbor this coming spring of 1944, our class will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of our graduation which was held when some 300 received their diplomas and were admitted to the Bar away back there in the so-called "Gay Nineties", in June, 1894 to be exact and if your memory is fading. It is customary now for the Alumni Association authorities of the University to reclassify the surviving members of a class with our experience as an Emeritus Class, of old folks, who are celebrating their Golden Jubilee, and possibly they deliver us a scroll, or with the scarcity of paper, a sheepskin, which we can frame and hang in the Alumni Hall, to memorialize our survival. That would be quite an honor and a good way to bid farewell to "94 Laws". At least that was what we were told when we folded our tents and left Ann Arbor for our respective homes in 1939. But the world was living in peace then, and how delightful and carefree it was. Of course, there were a few bad men skulking around in dark corners but we would mind our own business and we would not be molested. But that was all wishful thinking. So here we are knee deep in a war.

Last September, 1943, I had to investigate the exact location and value of some wild land in the heart of the Adirondacks left in the estate of an elderly resident of Detroit who had died and left an estate being administered here. When going up into that country an examination of maps disclosed I could do all I had to do through a Potsdam, New York base headquarters and with our classmate, George W. Fuller, '94 Law, as pilot. Fuller was born on a farm nearby and has been practising law in Potsdam for nearly 50 years. Therefore, through the necessary correspondence on the subject I was able to arrange a visit with him for a few days. The land matter was easily disposed of, as it was located in the mountains within an hour and within easy reach by car of his delightful home in Potsdam. From this land we could get a glimpse of the St. Lawrence River to the north and incidentally the land proved to be the home of at least two beautiful little animals, the like of which this Detroiter had never seen before in their natural habitat, but which I was informed were little red foxes and they were running wild, their long bushy tails flying. But in addition to the business at hand I had the pleasure of a very delightful visit with Fuller and his charming wife who extended her hospitality to this wandering old "Ki Yi" boy by staying home from church the crisp Sunday of my arrival two hours late, and serving a breakfast including 100% buckwheat cakes and real maple syrup. About ten years ago they built their present home on a ten rod plot adjoining the old Fuller homestead on Garden Street and are very comfortably established. I found Fuller hale and hearty and still actively engaged in the practice of law, also Referee in Bankruptcy for the northern 29 counties of New York, having his offices over the Citizens' National Bank of Potsdam, of which institution he serves as one of the directors and the attorney. Well, during my visit I was shown Potsdam and the fertile dairy country round about and the beautiful Raquette River tumbling over its rocky bed through a valley at the foot of the Adirondacks to the mighty St. Lawrence. During the day and till far into the evening we talked and talked, nibbled at food, sipped of this and that, mostly that, and talked some more. Fuller even got Judge Howe, another of our classmates, on the phone at his home over on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain, in Burlington, Vt. and I had a pleasant little chat with him. Naturally, Fuller and I in our heavy visiting reached the subject of the '94 Law Class reunion
in the near future and who was likely to come to Ann Arbor, how they would manage to get there, and when, and where they would eat and sleep.

Now the '94 Laws who live in Detroit and vicinity and are accustomed to going to Ann Arbor any time they feel it right and convenient, and who can walk out of their doors at home and reach their destination within 75 minutes, more or less, and when ready to leave for home to start with reasonable expectancy of arriving home the same day, and all without the necessity of taking an extra shirt or tie or any provisions, would take the matter of the reunion in their stride as a matter of course. Any of them could attend a reunion at Ann Arbor any time it is held. But what about the classmates who live in another state or five hundred miles more or less distant? What about Oreno E. Scott, our Class President, St. Louis, Mo; Luther Freeman, Estabrook, Wyoming; John Hassinger, Abingdon, Va.; William Rhodes Hervey, Los Angeles, Cal.; Edwin C. Henning, Evansville, Ind.; Lulu Richardson (Mrs. Charles H. Kelvey) Brooklyn, N.Y.; Ed Sims and A. G. Mills, Chicago, Ill.; and so on, (123 old people)? How are they going to get to Ann Arbor?

Now George W. Fuller, '94 Law of Potsdam, St. Lawrence County, State of New York presents a typical example. He is a loyal member of the '94 Law Class and enjoys taking a vacation by attending its reunions, and has been looking forward to its Golden Jubilee this year ever since 1939, until present conditions developed. He looked forward to a comfortable ride on the train, investing in a little popcorn and candy perhaps, and smoking some good long cigars, eating some good food and relaxing when tired, and the reunion over, thank God for his home to return to at the end of a Pullman ride. He would dearly love to meet his classmates again in Ann Arbor under normal conditions there. When I was in Potsdam we discussed the question long and earnestly. The Campus and the Union at Ann Arbor will not appear as of old, being crowded with young men in training for service in the combat forces. We understand the university is not encouraging reunions at present due to the difficulties in travel, difficulties in accommodations for eating and sleeping in Ann Arbor. We could not imagine how the prospect would appeal to the others of the 123 old men who are supposed to meet in Ann Arbor, and be reclassified as eligible Emeritus Class members and be crowned with the honor for being a survivor. What do the others say? Who would think it advisable for any of them to attempt the venture of leaving comfortable homes under the conditions of rail or air travel to the meeting place, (no gas for auto travel) and the uncertainty awaiting them on arrival. Where would they eat or sleep in Ann Arbor or its immediate vicinity, Ypsilanti and Detroit being equally congested. The Union and all the fraternity houses have been taken over by the University and are under Government control under lease for the duration. Heretofore accommodations for our reunions have been ideal and when we have our 50th Reunion we should certainly have the same or equally good accommodations and under the most ideal conditions. That is not possible now or will not be for at least 6 months after the end of the war. Then war times with most of us have increased our annual incomes, living expenses have increased at least 25% and income taxes are the highest in history and show no prospect of being less. None of this discussion has taken into consideration the propriety of even considering a reunion during the war. (The other night one section of one regular New York to Chicago train on the Michigan Central, New York Central lines, passing through Detroit and Ann Arbor at night, left Buffalo, N. Y. with 15 loaded cars, 7 of which were day coaches with normal capacity for 350 coach passengers, but carried 1057 coach passengers in the seats, aisles and vestibules by the conductor's actual count and the Pullman cars full to capacity by passengers having reservations at least a week in advance. That was not unusual or a holiday crowd). Fuller and Stoneman could do no better in closing their round table discussion than to reluctantly vote No to the question at the end of this special bulletin. I hope that you will consider the matter and send us your reply in order that Oreno E. Scott, 800 Chestnut St., St. Louis, Mo., our Class President, may be advised of your views.

List of Classmates whose mail has been returned unopened from their last known
addresses without comment, since last reunion:

James Jay Sheridan San Diego, California
Milton Draper Boyce Chicago, Ill.
Charles Howard Rector Los Angeles, Cal.

Deaths of classmates announced since last reunion Bulletin:

Harvey Aretas Evans July 1, 1940
Ralph Percy Tannehill date unknown
Samuel Pashley Irwin Dec. 31, 1941
Charles John Cole Dec. 7, 1941
Louis Bonner Lindsey 10 years ago
Charles H. Mattingly March 10, 1943
Sherman Henry Hovarter Oct. 15, 1942
Ralph White Hartzell Aug. 9, 1942
Darwin Thomas Mason July 12, 1939
Frederick William Marsh Feb. 7, 1938
Edward Garland Coll April 27, 1940

Fred A. Kies, of Jonesville, Michigan, has been elected Judge of the Probate Court, County of Hillsdale, Michigan, at the regular state election in November 1942, having been appointed by the Governor of Michigan to fill a vacancy caused by the death of his predecessor the previous year.

Alexander G. Burr, '94 LL.M. (Hon.) '34, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Dakota, was unanimously re-elected in November for a term of ten years. His address is 702 N. Fourth St., Bismarck, North Dakota.

At the monthly Board Meeting of the Church Extension of Disciples of Christ in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 11, 1941, President Oreon E. Scott, of St. Louis, Mo., received special honor. The occasion marked the beginning of his 14th year as President of this Board and was his 70th birthday anniversary as well. At a luncheon he was presented with a pen and pencil set. Mr. Scott, who is in the real estate and loan business in St. Louis, has missed but one meeting during his long tenure in office.

Oreon E. Scott has been appointed as one of the six members constituting the Board of the St. Louis Public Library.

Oreon E. Scott, our very active class president, was laid low last summer with a gall bladder infection which required hospitalization last June and what is known as a gall bladder exploration. I have heard from him since then and the rest and treatment it appears set him on his feet in good shape again.

Our classmate, Hon. Arthur J. Tuttle, the senior Judge of our U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, was called upon to preside at the trial of a former German citizen and tavern keeper in Detroit, one Max Stephan, charged with the crime of treason for giving aid and comfort to the enemy. The person of the enemy in this case was a cocky young Nazi airman who was captured and incarcerated in a Canadian prison camp from which he escaped and made his way to the Detroit River, the Canadian National boundary opposite Detroit, Michigan, and who there stole a boat and ventured out on the innocent waters under cover of darkness. When he struck land again he was in hostile country and within a strange city, but in the city he was seeking to find a woman whose name and address had been concealed in a knitted pair of socks given him in the prison camp. He found her and was given food, money and clothing and taken to the tavern keeper Stephan near by. This was Max Stephan who took the young Nazi under his protection, fed him, furnished him entertainment and shelter for several days, then sent him to Chicago. The Nazi was headed for Mexico whence he thought he could easily return to Germany to fight again. In Chicago he evidently contacted someone who headed him on his way, but the alarm had been sounded and the F.B. I. had been aroused and they caught up with the Mexico-bound escaped prisoner at San Antonio, Texas and returned him to his Canadian prison camp. Max Stephan was then apprehended and charged with treason.
The trial was a cause celebre and given wide publicity. He was convicted and the conviction sustained by all the higher courts, and hearings denied. Sentence had to be delayed several times, but Judge Tuttle was finally able to sentence him to death by hanging, but the prisoner's attorney at the last minute induced President Roosevelt to commute sentence to life imprisonment in the Atlanta, Georgia prison, which since then has been Max Stephan's post-office address. What became of the woman who hid her name and address in a knitted sock? She may be found in an internment camp somewhere where she cannot knit any more socks for German prisoners. But Judge Tuttle done his duty. "Ki Yi! Ki Yi! Ki Yippi Ki Yaw!"

Edwin C. Henning of Evansville, Indiana, entertained his wife at the McCurdy Hotel for Thanksgiving dinner a year ago. After dinner they strolled leisurely along the street intending to spend the evening at a theatre and being in no hurry did some window shopping along the way. Suddenly Mrs. Henning complained of feeling ill. No taxicab being available, Ed stopped a private car and got her to a hospital—but too late. She had left his side forever. It all happened within just a few minutes. In the midst of life we are in death.

Shall the members of the 1894 Law Class of the University of Michigan attempt to hold our Golden Jubilee Reunion and be inducted into the Emeritus Class according to schedule during the Commencement Week in 1944 at Ann Arbor, Michigan, or shall we notify the Alumni Association that we prefer to postpone such reunion meeting until some future date on the call of the Class President, and have the Class Officers continue in office until that time?

I vote Yea

Name

I vote No

Address

Tear off and vote. Any expression of opinion will be in order. Return to L. A. Stoneman, 1611 National Bank Bldg., Detroit 26, Michigan as soon as possible.
In answer to the January 1944 Special Bulletin, I am very much gratified to report that about 70% of the members of the Law Class of 1894 who were to receive their induction into the Emeritus Class at a Class reunion this year actually took their pens in hand and expressed their opinions on the question of attempting to hold the regularly scheduled reunion this year or not. All but a very few members thought we should not attempt to hold a reunion this year because of the conditions well-known to all of us, and the few who thought the reunion should be held this year of 1944, regardless, felt that this is the actual semi-centennial year of our graduation, which will never come again, and should not be allowed to pass without some formal recognition, at least. They express themselves to the effect that we are all getting older, and if we do postpone the event, to a future time it is certain that some of us who are now able and ready to come will not be around to attend a reunion of the class in Ann Arbor, or attend Hitler's trial, either, for that matter, when this terrible war ends. However we look at it, there will be no reunion of the Law Class of '94 this year. If a reunion was to be held it would appear from the answers I have received that there would be many more of our classmates present than we have had at our reunions in the past, for quite a few of them who are now beginning to lay down their work, stretch their uncertain muscles, and look around a little after a life of hard work, say that they had been looking forward to a trip to Ann Arbor this year. Well, that is too bad, but it is a
good sign. Keep the idea alive and if you feel your good intentions slipping just try a new vitamin I will endeavor to invent for the purpose of instilling new life and ambition in old bones by issuing an occasional bulletin. (All those so disposed can contribute $1.00 cash to the vitamin research fund.)

Genial Robert O. Morgan, Secretary of the Class

Officers' Council, called at my office recently to explain and enlarge on the difficulties to be surmounted in attempting to hold class reunions under present conditions and I was in Ann Arbor since then, and saw the situation personally. I didn't attempt to stay overnight. No women are permitted in the Union. The dining rooms are closed and the cafeteria restricted to the use of civilian males and the Army and Navy students. Anyone, men and women, can get good food at the Women's League, however, if he or she can only survive standing in line long enough at meal hours. I understand the Law Quadrangle is filled with a large number of young lawyers in uniform studying to become a J.A.G. (No, no, a thousand times, No. That J.A.G. refers to Judge Advocate General).

The Michigan Alumni Association is making ready for a great Victory Reunion, with ice cream and cake, speeches and things - all free. This will be held after the War, when all Michigan men in the service can meet again and for all classes, whose reunions have been postponed. That includes our class and you will hear of this later.

Lewis A. Stoneman,
1611 National Bank Building,
Detroit 26, Michigan