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THE BULLETIN

Published, four-monthly, by the Law Class of '94, University of Michigan. Send all communications to H. W. Webber, President and Editor, 36 West 44th Street, New York City.

No. 28

New York City, February

1929

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! CLASS RE- UNION, JUNE 14-15

Here we are, not much over five months from the great event—our 35th year reunion. Some one has said that the best summer landscape is painted in winter. However that may be, we do not have to rely upon the imagination stimulated by the cold season to give you a word picture or to tell you what is in store for you in the coming good old summer time. Are you making your plans? If not, why not?

Let's Go!

Make up your mind now. If you have not the reunion habit, begin right now. Remember there will not be so very many more celebrations of the old law class. You cannot afford to miss any, least of all the coming one, in June, 1929. To you who are far away from Ann Arbor, let us make the following suggestions: make the reunion days a part of your vacation; or, make them fit in with a business trip, or a pleasure trip, or a trip to the old home, to see the old folks, or kin, or boyhood friends or the shack in which you were born. We will try to keep your expenses in Ann Arbor down to an irreducible minimum. Please note also that reunion days now come toward the end of the week, on Friday and Saturday, followed by Commencement on the succeeding Monday.

Why a Reunion

What is the lure or "urge" responsible for the periodical pilgrimage to the old town from the ends of the earth? The "memories of my early day," the friendships of youth, the ancient care free rendezvous, the playground and workshop of the days when "the heart exults and sings," and, yes, still, the greetings, possibly, of some of our living masters at whose foot-stools we sat to drink in the drafts of wisdom. Yet, of all of them, most powerful and impelling is the prospect of meeting with old friends; precious friends of our lives, because their making stooped to no motives, as they perhaps unconsciously do too often in later days.

For those who have never attended a reunion, what delightful experiences are awaiting them! Let them, and you who have been there (for

(Please turn to Page Four)

FLOYD B. MECHEM

The news of Professor Mechem's death, on December 12, 1928, in his suite in the Del Prado Hotel, in Chicago, was, no doubt, a shock to many who had felt that his life would be spared yet for many years to come. He died of only a week's illness with a bronchial cold. He was seventy years old.

Professor Mechem came to us at the youthful age of thirty-three years. His life before, as well as after, was as active and full as a man's career could be. He was born in 1858. As a small boy he was obliged to depend upon his own efforts for his support. He worked on a farm, kept books and while attending high school in Ann Arbor drove a delivery wagon in order to make his way. Graduating, he taught several terms of school, spending his evenings reading law.

He was admitted to the bar in 1879, at once beginning practice in partnership with his preceptor, in Battle Creek, Michigan. His latest firm there had the largest law business in the county, and the most extensive trial practice in that and in the surrounding counties. He was four times City Attorney. He removed to Detroit in 1887 and there soon became a leader of the bar of that city. Here he founded the Detroit College of Law and then already began to attract attention throughout the country as an author, by his famous work "Mechem on Agency."

In 1891, he was called to the University of Michigan. Our class had the distinction of being the first junior class that came under his tutelage there, in the law school.

He left the University in 1903, to become affiliated with the new University of Chicago law school, at a greatly increased salary. He continued to hold the professorship in that institution until his death. During the same period, he assisted Chicago law firms as counsel, was a member of summer session law faculties, respectively of Columbia University in 1919-1920, University of Colorado in 1922 and Leland Stanford, Jr., University in 1923, and did not let up in active work of legal authorship. At his death he was one of the out-

(Please turn to Page Three)

THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is issued, throughout the year, in February, June and October.

CLASS TAX DELINQUENTS, ATTENTION!

If you find a blue card enclosed, it will mean that you have not paid your class tax for 1924-1929, payable in January, 1925. This small item of \$5, for five years, is not applied or expended for or at reunions; it goes for keeping up the class organization—for printing the Bulletin (particularly useful to members who do not attend reunions), for stationery, postage, etc.; one member was under the erroneous impression that because he did not attend reunions he was not called upon to pay the class tax. An addressed post-paid return envelope is also enclosed. Please remit immediately.

No further demand for payment of the tax will be made, before the Treasurer makes his final report to the class showing all the class taxes that have been received, which is now in preparation.

IN MEMORIAM

Marshall D. Ewell, our former lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence, died on October 4, 1928, in Memphis, Tenn., at the age of eighty-four years. He was graduated from the law school in 1868, and the university conferred upon him the degree of LL.D., in 1879. In 1884 the Chicago Medical College conferred the degree of M.D. upon him.

Dr. Ewell was Professor of Common Law at the Union College of Law, Chicago, from 1877 until he founded the Kent College of Law, in that city, of which institution he became Professor of Common Law, President and Dean. As an author his principal books were a treatise on the Law of Fixtures, "Essentials of the Law" and his well known "Manual of Medical Jurisprudence"; he edited also "Blackwell on Tax Titles," "Evans on Agency" and "Lindley on Partnership." He also attained distinction as an expert and authority on handwriting.

Many classmates who attended his lectures on medical jurisprudence will recall his kindly manner; and, undoubtedly, those who attended his autopsies will also recall their own temporary indispositions, during those interesting demonstrations.

LETTER FROM MRS. MECHEM

"Chicago, December 19, 1928.

"Dear Mr. Webber:

"Will you extend to the University of Michigan law class of '94 the appreciation of my sons and myself of their kind expression of sympathy.

"Yours very sincerely,

"JESSIE C. MECHEM."

The above was in response to the following message sent to Mrs. Mechem, by the president, the day after the death of Professor Mechem: "Law '94, University of Michigan, sends its heartfelt condolences upon the overwhelming loss you have just sustained in the death of your distinguished husband and our much beloved professor. Ours was the initial junior law class he taught in Ann Arbor and the impress of his profound knowledge upon the minds of his students by his teaching has never faded, but, on the contrary, has gained in lustre with the many passing years. Each and every one of us feels Professor Mechem's death keenly, and I, on behalf of the class, extend its unfeigned sympathy in your sorrow."

FINE PUBLIC SPIRIT AND CIVIC PRIDE OF A CLASSMATE

Desire and circumstance do not always meet for realization of the dream of the poor country boy leaving home to do something handsome some day for the old burg. Just as time is the balsam of all griefs and disappointments in life, so, too, it, particularly when accompanied by prosperity, honors or wealth, has a tendency to make us forget the place or position we came from. That has not been the case of our classmate and friend W. Herbert L. McCourtie.

The following are extracts from a column and a half of the front page of The Detroit News, of January 3rd, 1929:

The Old Sleepy Village

"'Herb' McCourtie is known in the world of cement as W. H. L. McCourtie, president of the Northwestern States Portland Cement Company and president of various other organizations. In Somerset Center he is still 'Herb'."

"'Herb' moved away from Somerset Center a good many years ago. It was the place of his birth, a tiny, slumbering and beautiful little spot south of Jackson, a settlement of Americans with old-fashioned names

THE BULLETIN

and old-fashioned ideals and manners and mode of speech."

"Three years ago he went back home. He was grown up, he was rich, he was a man of power. He looked at the little main street that curls and loafs between the hills and he looked at the babbling stream that likes to call itself a river, and he looked at the old church and the home where he was born. Everything looked pretty small, smaller than seemed possible, and more dingy and worn, and the folks seemed sort of that way, too."

Herb's Ingenious Idea

"He wanted to do something to show he loved the old town and his neighbors that were, and yet he knew the pride of the country side and the dislike of anything that smacked of charity. He wanted to help them help themselves and—he got the idea. His psychology was perfect. He arranged with the local storekeeper to give paint to every family in the township. They were to have enough paint, and of the color they wanted, to paint their houses. That was three years ago. In the year his paint bill was \$3,145, and the next year it was \$1,115 and this year it was \$1,500. There are 75 houses and barns in Somerset Center and every one shines and glitters until the village looks as if it were freshly taken out of its cotton wool box and set up for the world to admire."

Realization and Generosity

"Now the psychology worked out thus: old John Weatherwas, a member of the town board and Justice of the Peace, told about it. 'Folks,' he said, 'just naturally began to clean up more than the sides of their houses. New paint called for new grass and that called for frequent cuttings and new grass called for flowers and new fences, and when a house and yard were spick and span folks had just had to have the inside just as spick and span and, by golly, they've got them that way here in Somerset Center. I wouldn't be surprised but what we are the neatest village in the country.'"

"'Herb' was pleased to see how neatly his plan worked out and so he built a \$500,000 park about the stream, and the old home wherein he was born is to become a community house in the center of the park, and his neighbors can play and laze in the grounds and hold special gatherings within doors and every one from the baby in arms to the oldest inhabitant can share in the gift. He built a water system and is going to fix up

the Interdenominational Church, and if there is anything else he can think of, he will probably do that, also."

FLOYD B. MECHEM

(Continued from page one)

standing authorities on law in America.

Professor Mechem was a profound scholar and born teacher. We looked up to him as a master of the theoretical and technical knowledge of the law. His nervous organization seemed to be somewhat sensitive. Although our affection and admiration for him were deep and sincere, they did not appear to be as wide as for some of the other members of our law faculty, due perhaps to his reserve, which may have been a reaction from the newness of his environment. But man changes with time and contact. That he became universally beloved and revered by the student body is shown by the many expressions, in the city press, such as "he was popular among his students and for years had been affectionately known about the campus as Daddy Mechem," and, by the Dean of the Chicago University law school, "I doubt if there has ever been a man on our faculty for whom the students had such filial feeling. I suspect it was the combination of kindness and justice, learning and simplicity that made him the friend of all with whom he came in contact."

The last rites for Professor Mechem were held in the beautiful new Chicago University Chapel, recently dedicated, and were largely attended by the faculty, students and a few members of the bar. Classmate S. M. Schall was delegated to represent our class.

His out-of-door recreation was golf, and he was a member of the University Quadrangle and Lake Zurich Golf Clubs. Professor Mechem received the degree of LL.D. from Michigan, in 1912. He was buried in Battle Creek, Mich., and was survived by his widow and two sons, one Vice President of the First Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago and the other connected with the University of Kansas Law School.

INDEX TO THE BULLETIN

It is proposed to have a short index prepared of the contents of the Bulletins issued from the beginning to the time of the forthcoming reunion and to furnish a copy, free of charge, upon immediate application, to each of those who have saved the complete issues.

NEWS ABOUT OUR JUDGES

Judge E. Finley Johnson, a member of our faculty, recently observed the twenty-fifth anniversary of his appointment to the Supreme Court of the Philippine Islands. Before going to the Supreme Court, he served for nearly three years in the nisi prius courts in those islands, mostly spent in the organization of the first American courts in the various provinces. In many of them he personally assisted in making the furniture for the court room.

We regret to learn that Judge Johnson is suffering from an eye trouble. He participates in the decision of cases with great difficulty; however, he has assurances from his physicians that his eyesight will gradually return. He is planning to attend our reunion, unless ill health will prevent.

Former Quizmaster Robert F. Thompson, or "Bob Thompson," as he is still known to his friends and intimates of college days, was recently designated by the newly inaugurated Democratic Governor of New York to fill a vacancy on the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, of the Supreme Court of that state, and is a recognition of his distinguished service as presiding justice of the Supreme Court in his district. The promotion was made in accord with the unanimous wishes of the judges of the district.

Judge Thompson is a great friend of the young—which includes us. Not that he himself is aged, for he is one of us and attends all our reunions. Each year he gives a dinner to the youngsters of Canandaigua, his home city, who are attending college or school out of town.

Classmate Judge A. G. Burr, who filled a vacancy, by appointment, on the Supreme Court of North Dakota, was a candidate in the election held last fall. There were six candidates for three positions on that bench to be filled. Judge Burr was elected by the highest vote. He is a Democrat and North Dakota is a Republican state.

Classmate Edwin C. Henning, of Evansville, Indiana, was recently appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy of judgeship of the Vanderburg County Superior Court, in Indiana. Judge Travis, who has a high opinion of the qualifications of Henning for the place, is serving his second term on the Supreme Court of that state.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! CLASS RE-UNION, JUNE 14-15

(Continued from Page One)

prosperity or ennui may have dulled your enthusiasm), take out the latest class directory and read there the account of our reunion in 1924. Nothing is so inspiring and exhilarating, and life extending, to a member of the class, as the attendance of a reunion of Law '94.

ITEMS

James Jay Sheridan, of Aberdeen, Wash., has been admitted to the bar of the State of Washington. He has his office at No. 600 West Curtis Street, Aberdeen. He visited Los Angeles lately, calling on a number of classmates in that city.

William J. Galbraith was married on January 4, 1929, to Mrs. Smith Brown, of Chicago. They will reside after January 20th in Calumet, Michigan. Our heartiest congratulations, Bill!

Henry W. Webber has removed his law offices to No. 36 West 44th Street, also known as the Bar Building, from No. 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York City.

Oreon E. Scott's wife died recently, on December 20th, 1928, in their home, in St. Louis, Mo., and our sincere sympathy is extended to him in his great bereavement. Mrs. Scott was a graduate of the literary class of '93 of the University, when she was Mabel Crabbe. Many classmates will undoubtedly recall her by that name. She was a contributor to the Inlander and other student publications.

Henry E. Naegely, of Saginaw, Mich., specializes in the trial of cases, with an office in that city, in suite 1201, Second National Bank Building.

Alvah P. Cady has been City Attorney of Benton Harbor, Mich., for eight years. He was recently re-elected president of the League of Michigan Municipalities.

Walter C. Hartman has removed his office to Beverly Hills, Cal., from Los Angeles.

Edward B. Linehan, who attended law school in our class for a limited period, died on November 6, 1927, in Chicago. After leaving law school, he engaged as an iron worker. He was born in Dubuque, Ia., and attended Georgetown and Notre Dame Universities.