Class of 1897

Class Bulletin no. 52: Law Class of 1897

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ABBOTT, CHARLES F., Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt.—Deceased, April 27, 1929.

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

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

BABB, MAX WELLINGTON, 6440 North Lake Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin—Deceased, March 13, 1943.

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


BARTLETT, CHARLES L., 2815 Barlum Bldg.; Home 700 Whitmore Road, Detroit, Mich.—This year I am reporting to the Class of 1897 from the Veteran’s Hospital at Bay Pines, Florida. My good wife, Mary and myself came to Florida early in November as I dreaded the Michigan winter. It was necessary for me to enter Bay Pines at once, and as I write am convalescing from a serious operation. Bay Pines is a fine hospital—my surgeons were the best, hence I expect to be fully recovered before long. Last June Mary and I went to Ann Arbor for the Emeritus Club Dinner. We found our faithful President, William Hart, there and we had dinner together. Saturday noon the real thrill of the Reunion came when we attended the Alumni Luncheon at the Waterman Gymnasium. Then we were privileged to witness the presentation of Honorary Awards to the Alumni who have contributed greatest service to that organization. “Our William” was given a fine citation and I know that all members of the class will be glad to read it. I have asked him to include it in his report. It was an honor to share this great moment with our Class President, and we wished that all members of the class might have been there. In April my wife and I took a trip to our favorite spot in Florida—Daytona Beach. Enroute we stopped a week in Washington so that Mary could attend the Continental Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and have tea at the White House. I attended the John L. Lewis trial and several sessions of the Supreme Court. September found us in New England—a week at Plymouth where we were delegates to the Congress of the Society of Mayflower Descendants. By this time I presume you
all realize that I enjoy traveling. Right now I do my riding in a wheeled-chair, but will soon be sitting in the car beside Mary, enjoying the Florida sunshine and scenery. Best wishes to the Class of 1897.


BLACKBURN, JAMES H., Mt. Vernon, Ind.—My second year on the Posey County Circuit Court bench has almost come to an end and it has been rather uneventful. Some parts of the work is a real pleasure and interesting, but there are other parts that are exactly the opposite; consequently, about half the time I am elated with this job and then I find myself wishing I had never seen it. However, it is easy work, with plenty of leisure, and I am sure that it will not break me down or wear me out. I am looking forward to receiving the next class Bulletin and I always enjoy the reports from the other members. The Bulletin is decidedly worth while and I think rather important and we should all feel grateful to Judge Hart for his work in keeping it alive and coming for fifty years. Congratulations and good wishes to all of the classmates and to Judge Hart my sincere thanks.

BODMAN, HENRY E., 1400 Buhl Bldg., Detroit, Michigan—There is little to report of interest so far as I am concerned. I am still engaged in practice, and through my banking connections and counselship of Automobile Manufacturers Association I manage to keep in touch with much, if not most, of the many interesting activities of our community. I think that the surviving members of our class have much to be thankful for—if merely for survival during the vicissitudes of the period since graduation. I am one who persistently believes that a better world is awaiting the coming generations, although much tribulation is to be suffered before things right themselves. Best wishes to you and all the other members of the class.


COOMBS, ROY R., 352B South Reeves Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif. —If you look at my last year's report, you will see that I predicted Truman would be elected in '48, which makes me 100% correct. I want to make a couple more predictions. The Republicans will not be able to defeat the Democrats until there is a major depression. But if a major depression appears the Democrats will start another war. They have already started two, why not a third? Tom Dewey is a genius. It certainly required a genius to lose this election. Dewey told the farmers farm subsidies would have to be cut down. Away went the farm vote and that is what defeated him. Farmers and laboring men don't give a hoot about unity or a strong America. What they want to know is how many dollars they can put in their jeans. Do you think the Republicans will ever be able to get a candidate who has horse sense and not be too cowardly to debate the issues? Not long ago my door bell rang. I opened the door. A fine looking gentleman stood there
smiling. I smiled back. Then he took his hat off, still smiling. Finally, he said: "Don't you know me?" I said: "You look somewhat familiar around the eyes, but I can't place you." He said: "I'm Harry Freedman." He had his wife with him. They had lunch with us and we certainly had a fine visit. I don't know when I have enjoyed myself more. One thing has bothered me about Harry and that is, why he took his hat off to help me recognize him. When I last saw him 51 years ago he had a beautiful head of black hair. Today he is as bald as an egg. As for myself, I am just a crusty old man. I cuss a lot at the way things are going and my main ambition is to live long enough to see the Republicans back in power. The chances are not too good. If any of you of the Law Class of '97 come out here, be sure and look me up. The latch string is always out, and you will be as welcome as the flowers in May.

DANCER, HERBERT A., 1000 Alworth Bldg., Duluth, Minn.—I have been far too busy during the summer and fall with just ordinary work which I try to take care of, although I have promised myself each winter for some years to take it easier in the summer. Last winter, Mrs. Dancer and I spent two months in Coral Gables, a suburb of Miami. We found Judge and Mrs. White established in a little hotel just a few blocks away, and we enjoyed visiting with them upon several occasions, although not nearly often enough. It is amazing how busy one can be doing absolutely nothing. I think that one of the high points of our trip was the first time Judge White and I took our respective wives and my daughter and drove over to the beautiful Miami Beach home of our classmate, Charles W. Hills, for a reunion with him. If you have not seen him for several years you may be interested in the enclosed snapshot of us. His leg muscles may be a little soft from lack of vigorous use, but his mind is keen and he proudly meets every vicissitude of life with a smile or a laugh. We enjoyed visiting with him. I saw him once in Chicago during the summer and will probably see him again this winter. Of course, Charles W. is a mere youngster. For illustration, I came through Ann Arbor just a few weeks ago and one of my old professors of the Literary Department, whom some of the class may know, Professor Trueblood, came into the car, carrying a big heavy grip, and took a seat next to mine. He told that some twenty-five years ago he had insisted with the Board of Control of Athletics that football, baseball, and tennis are all games of youth. That the only lifetime game is golf and that it should be encouraged. Upon his insistence, he was permitted to retire from his position as Professor of Elocution and Public Speaking and took charge of teaching golf, arranging for Big Ten golf tournaments and like activities, and has been teaching and playing golf ever since and still plays it. That his contention was right is clearly evidenced by the fact that he is 93 years of age, that he was traveling to spend Thanksgiving in a little town about 100 miles west of Chicago with some of his children, several of his thirteen grandchildren and a few of his ten great grandchildren. I enjoyed visiting with him very much.
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.—Life going on as usual. Did not come East this summer as I am putting most of my work on my son who marketed my lambs on the Chicago market. Do hope to go down to Texas for the annual meeting of the National Wool Growers of which I am Honorary President. Refused to accept heading our State Association of which I had been President for 35 years and was made Honorary President of that association so have two Honorary jobs for life. Regret to report that Mrs. Drumheller in crossing the street on way home was struck by a careless car driver a few days ago and badly bruised but fortunately no broken bones. She is now home from the hospital and hope will soon be in normal condition. Kindest regards to all classmates.

FIELD, FREEMAN, 223 W. Sixteenth St., Los Angeles, Calif.—Deceased, July 10, 1931.

FORD, DELBERT E., 2233 East 70th St., Chicago 49, Ill.—Life with me seems to go along in the same hum drum manner from day to day and month to month, all of which is very lonely, having lost my beloved wife nearly two years ago and having no close relatives or children, here in Chicago. Drove to New York the early part of October to visit a brother (who by the way is a '95 U. of M. Law) and had a very pleasant two weeks visit and am invited back for the Holidays and may accept. Never seem to run across any of our class mates and would like to have them get in touch with for a real talk-fest whenever they are in this city. My telephone number is Hyde Park 3-1321 and this hint is for you as well as other class mates.

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

FREEMAN, FRANK F., Portland, Ore.—No report.


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

GEORGE, RANSOM G., 687 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y. —I have been sometimes remiss in sending in yearly reports but my heart has always been with the good old Class of '97 Law, even though I have not been in the practice of law for so many years. Those of our class whom I knew most closely during Ann Arbor days have, for the most part, gone to their reward and it saddens me to realize how our ranks are thinning. Your yearly publication of the Bulletin, I know, is greatly appreciated by those of us who remain. As for myself I have not much to report. I am not now active in any way, to my regret, and I envy those of our class who like yourself, Judge Hart, are still busy in the service of their localities, state and nation. My wife has been in poor health for some time which is to me a great sorrow and distress. I can only thank you and send my greetings and best wishes to all of our surviving members.
HANDY, JAMES S., 5409 Harper Ave., Chicago, Ill.—Deceased, September 27, 1941.


HARRISON, GEORGE B., 1019 Grand Ave., 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 tenth year on the Supreme Court of Ohio. My two sons, Ian Bruce Hart and William L. Hart Jr. are engaged in the practice of law under the firm name of Hart & Hart at Canton, Ohio. I have enjoyed good health and I carry a heavy load of work on the Court. Last February I received notice from the University that I had been selected to receive one of the Distinguished Alumni Service Awards from the University at Commencement time in June 1948. With modesty, I hope, I quote from the July 1948 Commencement issue of the Michigan Alumnus as follows:

“One of the most impressive features of Reunion Week was the presentation of beautiful medals and certificates to five Alumni who were honored for their life-long contributions of outstanding service to the University and the Alumni Association. The ceremony, a high light of the Alumni luncheon on June 12, marked the second annual Distinguished Alumni Service Medal program and brought rounds of enthusiastic applause from the 1400 alumni present in Waterman Gymnasium as each of the recipients was cited.

“Keen interest and approbation were evidenced by the huge throng as the awards were presented, in chronological order of class, to: Dexter M. Ferry Jr. a ’92-95, A. M. (Hon.) ’33, Detroit; William D. McKenzie ’96, A. M. (Hon.) ’36, Chicago; William Lincoln Hart, ’97 L., Alliance, Ohio; Nelson Reed Anderson, ’06-’08 L. Seattle, Washington; and Helen Malcolmson Gore, ’15, A. M. ’34, Benton Harbor, Mich.

Clair B. Hughes, ’12, J. D. ’14, concluding his two year term as President of the Alumni Association, presided over the honor ceremony. He explained briefly the background and purposes of the award program. He then called each recipient forward and, after reading the citation, presented the honored alumnus with a specially designed certificate. President Alexander G. Ruthven, in turn, congratulated each individual, expressed the thanks of the University, and presented the beautiful bronze Distinguished Alumni Service Medals. Following are the citations which accompanied the coveted awards:

“William Lincoln Hart—Throughout a successful career in his native Ohio, during which he has risen to an Associate Justiceship in the Supreme Court, William Lincoln Hart has maintained a deep and abiding interest in his University. Since the graduation of his class fifty-one years ago, he has been either its President or Secretary, and as self-appointed class editor he has compiled, published, and distributed an Annual Bulletin chronicling the current and...
resses and activities of each classmate. The Alma Mater of his undergraduate days, Mount Union College, of which he is a Trustee as well as lecturer on international law, has bestowed upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, citing his service as President of the Ohio State Bar Association, his teaching and other outstanding accomplishments in his profession."

HAYES, HENRY N., 1179 South 15th St., Salt Lake City, Utah—Deceased.

HILLS, CHARLES W., 2400 Prairie Ave., Miami Beach, Fla.—Our old president, William L. Hart stands ready to perform his usual kind service in giving us an opportunity to hear from each other. Following the death of my son in 1943 the firm reorganized with the same offices and the same personnel with the exception of my son and have continued the practice. That would be true with the exception of myself. At my age I have really not been in a position to take a very active part. I spend a little time at the office each year but only a little, and I endeavor to aid and assist in guiding and directing the affairs of the firm. The firm has been very successful financially and professionally, and the six partners whose names appear on our letterhead have received a very good income from the business including myself. My nephew Carlton Hill is now the managing partner. He has developed into a very good lawyer and a dependable one. At the time he went into the last war, Carlton, who had received the rank of major I believe during the previous war was recalled to the Service and was entrusted with the training of all the Marines and many of the sailors who served in the last war, and received the rank of lieutenant colonel. I don't know just when I may be in Chicago again but spend most of my time at my home at Miami Beach, where the members of the Class frequently visit me. My health has been pretty good until the last trip to Chicago where I stopped at the Union League Club for about four months. I was taken with what was probably an attack of grippe or flu or something like that and I had about four months of real disability, but I seem to be in pretty good health now. Wish all the members of the Class the best of health for themselves and family and abundant prosperity, and very best regards to our president, Judge Hart.

KOCOUREK, AIBERT, 448 Wisconsin Ave., Beloit, Wis.—No report.

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

LONG, WILLIAM M.—Deceased, 1909.

LUX, ARTHUR W.—Deceased, September 25, 1910.

MILLER, HARRY A., Duane at Lorraine, 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., 758 Cherry St., Grand Rapids, Mich.—No report.

ORTON, JESSE F., 89-10 35 Ave., Jackson Heights, N. Y.—I am in good health and quite busy, having recently tried a large tax case which required nearly a year’s work in preparation. I have not traveled this year and have not seen any member of our class. I hope the Class Bulletin will be supported, for it would be greatly missed if it should be necessary to discontinue it. As a result of the election we have failed to put a Michigan Alumnus in the White House. It was quite a disappointment to Michigan Alumni here for that and other reasons. Mrs. Orton is still active and her twenty-ninth book for children and young people was published last August.

PADLEY, W. M., Reardan, Wash.—No report.

PRATT, JOHN S., Room 2716, Department of Justice, Washington 25, D. C.—There really is not much of interest for me to report for the class bulletin. I am still busily engaged in the Department of Justice as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General and I shall welcome a call from any of the members of our class who may happen to be in Washington. Again I want to express my appreciation for your work in keeping the members of our class in touch with each other.

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

ROGERS, ALBERT T., JR., Crockett Bldg., Las Vegas, New Mexico—Have been busier the past year than for several years, altho I should either slow down or retire, as the practice has become very fatiguing, a new experience for me. But I would be very unhappy in retirement,—so expect to keep active until the end. During the past few weeks I have settled four personal injury cases,—business somewhat out of my line of practice. Last week I settled one of the cases, an action for $100,000 damages for death of a child who contacted a live wire of the Company, against my client, the Public Service Company of New Mexico, for $12,500: Then later in the week representing the plaintiff I obtained a verdict for $40,000 for the loss of a hand in an airplane accident. Lucky I didn’t try the Public Service Company case before that jury. The other two cases I settled out of court. Since the beginning of my practice, I have always tried to amicably settle cases out of Court, as I believe you thereby better serve the cause of justice and your client. I have thus settled nine out of every ten controversial matters. In any event, a corporation has two strikes against it before the trial begins. We re-elected a member of the State Bar Commission (our State being one of the first to adopt the integral bar association plan) and it has been a great success. The years have taken their toll but I am still able to maintain my regular schedule. Greetings and best wishes to
RYAN, EMMETT C., 1009 North Water St., Uhrichsville, Ohio—(Report made by Mrs. Ryan)—I regret to say that Emmett has been very ill for the last two weeks and is confined to his bed, although he is somewhat improved. I am here alone and wish every day that we were nearer to his friends so that he could see them more often. I read your letter to him. He seemed pleased to hear from you. He was glad when I told him I would write you and tell you he was ill. Our daughter, Maurine will be home from Washington for a few days at Christmas time. It is so lonely without her. Best wishes and kind thoughts of you. (I suggest we each write classmate Ryan a letter to cheer his soul.)

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

STANLEY, FRED B., 1025 Chevy Chase Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif.—Deceased, May 17, 1943.

STEARNS, CLAIRE H., Box 1353, 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., First National Bank Bldg., Niles, Mich.—In commemoration of the fact that five members of the Berrien County Bar had practiced law over fifty years, on November 22nd. last, the Berrien County Bar Association gave us a testimonial banquet. On the 1st. of January next I expect to retire from the firm and will not continue in the active practice excepting that I expect to retain a few old valued clients, just enough to keep my mind occupied. Last February and March I spent in Coral Gables, Florida and expect to return there for at least next February and March. While in Florida last winter, Mr. and Mrs. Dancer were there also, and Mrs. White and myself spent many pleasant hours with them. We also had the pleasure of calling upon Hills two different times and had a most enjoyable time visiting with him. I certainly enjoy receiving our annual bulletin and hope all the surviving members of the class will send in their reports.

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