



Audrey Flitch Shultz, yesterday and today—and a new future. Fledgling attorney Shultz with former Dean Earl Sneed and Dean Kuntz.

A half-century's elapsed between degrees for Audrey Shultz

Law begins at 70 for a remarkable alumna

Don't blink your eyes when you read Mrs. Audrey Shultz's Roll Call items and her degrees are listed as '17ba, '18ma, '67Law. That's no typo. This amazing lady, after 50 years as a full-time wife, mother, and grandmother, is now a lawyer. Would you believe a PhD in 2017?

When Audrey Flitch Shultz decided to enter the OU School of Law in 1964 she knew she would have to overcome a number of disadvantages. For one thing she was a woman, which meant of course that she would not have a wife to type law briefs. Also, she was 67 years old, and everybody knows that you don't start law school at 67. But the aspiring lawyer also had one decisive advantage over her fellow colleagues—she was Audrey Shultz, and Audrey Shultz has a record of successes as numerous as they are varied.

On June 4, 1967 50 years after she had received her first OU degree Mrs. Shultz, in a class of 94, received the juris doctor degree—not without a bit of fanfare. On hand to claim the distinction of being their mother's children were Mrs. Shultz's son, Ben Jr. of Huntsville, Ala., and three daughters, Evalee Homan, Baton Rouge, La.; Ruth Stanley, Westchester, Pa., and Marie Hatch, Austin, Tex., as well as other members of the family which include nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The family was present for the annual class reunions on Saturday, June 3, which honored the Class of 1917, the Honors Luncheon on Sunday, a special dinner honoring Mrs. Shultz, and the Law Convocation at which she was presented the Student Bar Association award. This award was especially meaningful to Mrs. Shultz because the students choose the recipient. Other proof of her popularity turned up in the law school yearbook. She was elected secretary of the senior class.

"Everybody was wonderful to me," she says, "not only the professors but the boys, too. I haven't opened a door

myself at the law school in three years. As far as grades are concerned though, I'm certainly not special. I'm just a number, like all of the other students. If I couldn't make it on my own, I wouldn't want it anyway."

The Shultz name is not a new one at OU. Audrey Shultz was a member of Mortar Board and Phi Beta Kappa, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1917 and a master's a year later. Both degrees were in zoology. Her late husband, Bennie Shultz, was University engineer for 43 years. He earned a BS in engineering in 1918 and a master's in 1921. Three of the couple's four children are OU graduates; the fourth is a University of Virginia graduate.

The Shultz grandchildren are accumulating some degrees of their own. Three are working on PhD's and an MD, and another has received a PhD from Harvard.

To the inevitable question of "Why did you decide on law school?" Mrs. Shultz says, "I've always wanted a PhD. After OU law started giving a juris doctor degree, I thought, why not?" Asked if she had any doubts about completing requirements she said, "I sure did. I had doubts right up to the end. But all my children were coming home to see me graduate, so I had to do it. I would have lost face had I not."

Mrs. Shultz still has another goal to attain—passing the bar exam. She doubts that she will ever set up an extensive practice, but she would like to work in legal aid for the poor and do some probate work and wills. "The main thing though," she says, "is seeing my name on that shingle."—
JUDI FREYER

The Shultz family gathered for a reunion dinner at commencement in honor of an extraordinary mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

