

# School Days

for

# Courtroom Veterans

By Carolyn G. Hart, '58journal



Paul Harkey, '48Law, listens intently to a lecture in Trade Regulations.

SATURDAY morning classes aren't at all unusual in the O.U. College of Law—for Dean Earl Sneed, '34ba, '37Law, isn't a man who believes in a five-day work week. But two Saturday morning law classes have a special claim to distinction.

The courses are Trade Regulations, taught by Dr. Frank Elkouri, '43ba, '47Law, from 9 to 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon, and Water Law, taught by Dr. Joseph F. Rarick from 10 to 11 a.m.

In addition to the usual complement of professors and law juniors and seniors, 13 practicing attorneys are enrolled in one course or the other. Every Saturday morning they appear with pens, pads and case briefs, ready to recite.

The lawyers-turned-students (for one day a week) are Evertt M. Arney, '32Law, of Arney, Barker and Donley in Clinton; Henry Dolezal, '33Law, Perry attorney; Arthur J. Flynn, '50Law, Kerr-McGee Oil Industries, Oklahoma City; John William Hammett, Jr., '49Law, Anderson-Prichard Oil Co., Oklahoma City; Paul Harkey, '48Law, State Highway Department, Oklahoma City, and John Thomas Hedges, '29Law, professor of economics and business law at Oklahoma City University.

Also Duane Lobaugh, '50Law, branch counsel for the Small Business Administration, Oklahoma City; Haskell Paul, '29Law, Pauls Valley attorney; William G. (Bill) Paul, '56Law, Norman, of Emory,



Sooner attorneys, present and future, brush up on Water Law. Left to right—(first row) Jack Querry, Tonkawa law junior; Ed Sampson, Fort Worth senior, Dave Kendrick, Natchitoches, La., senior—(second row) Ed Parry, Norman junior; Bill Chapman, Ardmore senior; Dick Bohanon, Oklahoma City senior—(third row) Bill Paul, Norman; Haskell Paul, Pauls Valley; John T. Hedges, Oklahoma City; Evertt M. Arney, Clinton.

Crowe, Tolbert, Boxley and Johnson in Oklahoma City; Fred S. Sanchez, '51Law, Oklahoma City attorney; Tom E. Smith, '58Law, Republic Supply Co., Oklahoma City, and Louis David Trapnell, '56Law, Continental Oil Co., Ponca City.

The only attorney attending who is not an O.U. law grad is William J. Holloway, Jr., Oklahoma City, also with Emory, Crowe, Tolbert, Boxley and Johnson. Holloway did receive his BA from O.U. in 1947 but took his legal training at Yale.

The attorneys are taking advantage of the college's latest means of answering a long-standing call from the Oklahoma Bar Association for continuing legal education for attorneys. The college has long cooperated with the University Extension Division in presenting short courses and seminars on particular aspects of the law, but last spring signaled the beginning of a formal program in continuing legal training.

Law colleges across the nation have become aware in recent years that post-graduate education is as necessary for the lawyer as for the doctor. New legal fields have come into being and old fields are constantly expanded.

The college's policy-planners decided last spring to see just what would be the response if courses of interest to practicing attorneys were scheduled at a convenient time.

Oil and Gas Taxation, taught by Eugene O. Kuntz, was scheduled from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays and Estate Planning, taught by Kuntz, Dr. Rarick and Larry McLane, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays.

The response was more than pleasing. Thirty attorneys enrolled in the courses. Although most were from Oklahoma City, there were men traveling from Wewoka, Noble, Norman, Midwest City and one each from Azle, Tex., and Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The honeymoon is far from over for the new program with this fall's offerings quickly filled. Satisfied that the courses do fill a long-felt need, the college will offer Oil and Gas Taxation again this spring from 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursdays beginning February 4 and Estate Planning from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays beginning Feb. 6.

"We have been sincerely pleased with the warm response and interest shown by the attorneys in this program," Dean Sneed

said, "and with their interest in increasing their knowledge in their fields."

Professor Mortimer Schwartz adds, "The response has been so enthusiastic on the part of the Bar Association that we have decided to continue this program in helping lawyers develop new skills.

"The lawyers have expressed the desire to attend courses in the regular curriculum. They are interested in these regular courses usually because they were not offered when they attended school. Both Water Law and Trade Regulations are post-war courses.

"Having lawyers in the regular classes peeps up the students, and the students pep up the lawyers. The competition has pedagogical value. We are offering the courses to attorneys for credit too. This encourages them to be well-prepared for class and insures a systematic and well-disciplined approach to the subject matter.

"On the part of the lawyers, it is an investment in their future. It is not unlike doctors going back for post-graduate work."

Courses aimed at furthering the legal education of attorneys aren't unique in col-

lege law schools, but O.U. has avoided what it considers two dangerous practices:

1. Setting up special courses for attorneys only.

2. Emphasizing the post-graduate work to an extent that the undergraduates suffer.

Under the O.U. program attorneys with from 1 to 30 years experience mingle with students who are soon to make their first entry into the professional world. The result is as dynamic as flint struck on rock.

The attorneys believe as one man that classes with undergraduate students keep them on their toes and encourage thorough preparation.

The students find it invigorating to hear practical experience applied to theory.

The professors have discovered that the mixed classes are fast-moving and fun to teach.

Bill Paul, who is enrolled in both Trade Regulations and Water Law, put it this way, "I find that I am disciplined about preparing for class since I am in it with people taking it for credit." In fact, Paul signed up for credit too just to make sure he would always be well-briefed.

Ed Sampson, law senior from Monahans, Tex., has a tribute for the steady work done by the practicing attorneys. "We definitely have to keep up with the pace," Sampson said. "The attorneys are

outstanding students." He paused and added wryly, "Especially Willy (Bill Paul's second nickname)."

Joe Cannon, Ponca City law junior, in Water Law, said, with a tired shrug, "I find that I have an ample four hours work preparing for a one hour course. I agree that the practicing attorneys make a difference in the class."

Lobaugh and Harkey pointed out that the shoe also fits the other foot and that the bright-eyed competition of the students really puts them on their mettle.

Harkey is definitely pleased by the college's attempt to help in furthering legal education for attorneys but stressed that the college must offer courses in specialized fields to really meet the need and draw in attorneys.

Dr. Elkouri takes the professor's view, "It is very stimulating to have the assistance of men in practice in the classroom discussions. They have an insight in particular matters far beyond what I have. This is wonderful for both the instructor and the students."

Rod Buckles, law senior from Tulsa, agreed with Dr. Elkouri, "Normally in most law classes we have lots of theory but little that is strictly practical. In this class an attorney has usually just had contact with something that relates very practically

to the class discussion, so we learn from his experience."

Stan Gill, Norman law senior, added, "I think it has been very stimulating for us. The presence of practicing attorneys has forced us into a more detailed analysis than is usual."

Dr. Rarick glows with enthusiasm over the student-attorney relationship in class. "It means a lot to have them," Rarick said. "It is a much more stimulating experience in teaching because they bring such a wealth of experience to a class. It really adds a great deal. In the more specialized areas of Estate Planning last spring the contribution of the attorneys was tremendous."

"There is always the danger of going overboard in a program of continuing legal education and letting the basic program slip, but there is no danger of that happening here. I think we have the ideal solution in working the practicing attorneys into the regular courses."

The classes have drawn attorneys of all ages. Bill Paul and his uncle, Haskell Paul, represent two generations of attorneys. The elder Paul must sometimes feel as if he were a senior in law school again, for seated next to him in Water Law is John T. Hedges, who was also his classmate in 1929.



Comparing class notes are John T. Hedges, '29 Law, seated, and L. David Trapnell, '56Law.