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## AND GLADLY WOLDE HE LERNE AND GLADLY TECHE\*

In November 1891, exactly three weeks after Millard Sheridan Breckenridge was born in Chicago, Robert Hasley Wettach was born in Pittsburgh. In neither case were there portents to indicate that during the more mature and productive half of their lives to date their professional careers would coincide and intertwine in Chapel Hill.

Mr. Wettach, in fact, has been here for well over half of his life, having joined the law faculty in September 1921. Mr. Breckenridge came six years later. Mr. Wettach came after earning the A.B., M.A. and LL.B. from Pittsburgh and the S.J.D. from Harvard, serving as a naval aviator during World War I, and practicing law for a year. Mr. Breckenridge came after earning the Ph.B. from Chicago and the LL.B. from Yale, practicing law for three years, and teaching law at Iowa and Western Reserve.

These two are, in age, the senior men in a group of five which represents total service on the University of North Carolina law faculty of more than 183 years. Single minded in their devotion to the welfare of the School and its students, unyielding to—and perhaps not even seriously tempted by—the lure of other careers, they contributed greatly to the unparalleled record of a law faculty which, during one period of seventeen and one-half years, did not need a replacement.

Mr. Wettach was Dean of the School from 1941 to 1949. Along the way he was on leave for one year to serve as an Assistant Attorney General of North Carolina and for one semester to teach at Florida. Mr. Breckenridge was also on leave for one year to act as Legal Adviser to the Committee on Interstate Commerce of the U.S. House of Representatives and for several semesters to teach at Louisiana State and Vanderbilt. Both men have been summer teachers at a number of other law schools.

Both, over the years, have taught many courses. Both experienced (and Mr. Wettach had the difficult task of administering as Dean) the student famine of the war years and the post-war student flood. They have taught any course needed by any student

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\* With all due apologies to Geoffrey Chaucer.

available and they have taught their favorite courses in classrooms crammed to the walls. Mr. Wettach's service completely spans, and Mr. Breckenridge's almost spans, the School's history as a "modern" school. Indeed, with their senior colleagues, they directed the development of the School, set its tone, and stamped their own high quality upon its work.

They have been many things other than merely teachers of law. Both have made innumerable contributions of lasting value to the School, the University, the organized bar, the State of North Carolina, and the nation. This is not, however, the place in which to attempt to catalogue their civic, professional and scholarly achievements.

Rather this is the place to say, with affection as earned as it is loving, that their greatest achievement has been in human relations. Their personal impact upon their students, their fellow faculty members, their friends and acquaintances—indeed, even upon their nominal superiors—has been the impact attainable only by their combination of sharp intellect, high character, professional dignity, and unvarying decency.

Having reached the age of seventy, they will teach only half time in 1962-63. If we accept this at face value, we treasure the part of their time we retain as we deeply regret the part we lose. We suspect, however, that the situation will prove to be that they will receive half pay for half of their former hours in class, but will continue to be full time in their over-all service.

Ostensibly it is the editors who dedicate to them this issue of the *Law Review* as a symbolic salute to this milestone in their careers. In truth, the dedication is and has been theirs; and the real salute is in the minds and hearts of those to whose welfare they have been dedicated through these long and fruitful years.