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Robert Emmet Hayes Memoriam

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In Memoriam

ROBERT EMMET HAYES

*Edwin J. Owens**

My acquaintance with Professor Robert E. Hayes began in Boston in 1929, when Boston College Law School opened its doors for the first time. I was then a part-time member of the faculty, teaching the course in Equity, and Bob Hayes was enrolled in the opening class of the evening division. As a student, Bob Hayes was impressive and graduated in 1933 with distinction. In that same year I came to Santa Clara as Dean of the School of Law.

In 1934, when in need of an additional full-time teacher, I thought immediately of Bob Hayes. Fortunately for me and for Santa Clara, he accepted my invitation, and in September, 1934, he began his teaching career.

These were difficult years. The law school itself was being reorganized from a part-time night division to a full-time day law school. It lacked accreditation by both the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools. In those depression years, it possessed virtually no law library. In this process of conversion, in the elevation of the standards, and in obtaining accreditation by the two agencies mentioned above, Professor Hayes was of invaluable aid to me.

Professor Hayes remained a full-time member of the University's law faculty until 1940, when he joined the office of Frank V. Campbell, an outstanding trial attorney, in San Jose. Even after that time, however, Professor Hayes continued to teach the course in Torts at the law school until the pressure of practice compelled him to abandon it.

As a trial lawyer, Bob Hayes was superb. Few lawyers commanded the respect and admiration which was accorded to him by both the bench and the bar. He was always thoroughly prepared in court and unfailingly courteous. To him law was truly a profession. His fellow lawyers evidenced their respect for him by electing him president of the Santa Clara County Bar Association in 1947. He also served as a member of the State Bar Journal Committee and was a member of the American

*A.B., Holy Cross College, 1919; LL.B., Harvard, 1922; LL.D., University of Santa Clara, 1952. Judge of the Superior Court of the State of California. Professor of Law, University of Santa Clara School of Law.

Association of University Professors. In 1953, however, Bob Hayes returned to the University of Santa Clara as a full-time member of the law school faculty.

As a law teacher, Professor Hayes was a natural. His keen analytical mind, his clarity and cogency of expression, his warm, vibrant personality, and perhaps above all, his deep personal interest in each student endeared him to all and made every class a stimulating and rewarding experience.

On August 4, 1962, Professor Robert E. Hayes died at the age of fifty-eight. His death was a great loss to his family, to the students and faculty of the University of Santa Clara and to the legal profession. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and by his two children, Loretta, a daughter, and by his son, Robert E. Hayes, Jr., who, in memory of his beloved father, wrote these words:

I heard a melody austere
And then a bugle blew
Sweet soothing sleep displaced all fear
To world I bid adieu
In scapular I left this world
On Mary's Special Day
And saw her crown with jewels impearled
A beacon for the way.

To these words, all who were privileged to know Professor "Bob" Hayes would say "amen."