

The Robert S. Macfarlane Family Establishes Memorial Library Fund

Condon Current and Annual Giving Report 1982-83, at 7.

On March 6, 1982, a remarkable man died. He was **Robert Stetson Macfarlane**, who graduated *magna cum laude* in the class of 1922. At the age of 31, he was elected a judge of the Superior Court of King County, Seattle. In 1934 he resigned to become assistant western counsel of the Northern Pacific Railway. In subsequent years, he became successively the railroad's western counsel, assistant to the president, and executive vice president. In 1951, he became Northern Pacific's twentieth president; he served in that capacity for nearly 16 years. When several railroads, including the Northern Pacific, merged into the Burlington Northern, Mr. Macfarlane was the major architect of the important and complicated transactions. Mr. Macfarlane was a director of the American Smelting and Refining Company; Northern States Power Company; First Bank System, Minneapolis and First National Bank, and First Trust Company, and the Saint Paul Companies, all of St. Paul. He also was a director of Pacific National Bank in Seattle.

His impressive professional accomplishments, however, were overshadowed by his civic activities and by his impact on his family, who were and are equally committed to the welfare of society. For 17 years Mr. Macfarlane was a member of the Seattle School Board. A staunch supporter of the University, he was president of the University of Washington Alumni Association and vice president of the University's Research Foundation. In recognition of what he had done in his professional life and for the University, he was the University's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 1953. He was president of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, the Rainier Club of Seattle and Commodore of the Seattle Yacht Club.

While his family considered several alternative ways of both memorializing Mr. Macfarlane and helping the School from which his professional career began, the decision to create a fund to establish a pre-eminent collection of transportation law materials at the University of Washington School of Law was based on Mr. Macfarlane's own love for books and study and on his deep respect for the need for responsible scholarship.

When he spoke at the 1933 dedication of Condon Hall, then-Judge Macfarlane said,

"The greatest contribution of any school may well be the development of an enlightened leadership for the benefit of generations yet unborn. It will be an inquiring, examining and exploring leadership . . . if it is to be a great leadership, it must be a leadership which through law seeks to bring to full fruition the American dream."

Members of the family and the Burlington Northern Foundation have made the founding gifts to the Fund.

Those who wish to encourage the further development of the Macfarlane Transportation Law Collection may send contributions to the University of Washington Law School Foundation, University of Washington, School of Law, Condon Hall JB-20, Seattle, Washington, 98105.

—George Schatzki



Robert Stetson Macfarlane '22