Laird, in his characteristic, self-depreciatory way, always gave his partners credit for his public service. He said if they had not done his work and their own too he would not have been able to devote himself to the University and the other public activities in which he was involved. Though this statement was not wholly true, it was not wholly false, either. The Bell firm deserves the thanks of Harvard, Carleton, the National Merit Scholarships, and the whole Chicago community for helping Laird in his public duties. They were, as this list indicates, manifold. Apart from those he brought on himself, there were those Nathalie brought on him; for the extensive Fairbank connection had been active in every good work around Chicago for generations. A great number of eleemosynary institutions, including the University, were, in effect, Laird's clients without fee.

Laird was a lawyer. He was a noble lawyer. He never forgot he was an officer of the court and a member of a learned profession. He included in his stereoscopic vision the public good as well as the interests of his clients. And he went to some trouble to find out what the public good was. He never stopped learning. He and Nathalie were members of the Great Books group that Mortimer Adler and I led at the University Club. There, as in meetings of the Board of Trustees, he gave the impression that he was waiting for the rest of us to catch up.

Laird used to say that what he liked best in any speech was the phrase, “And now in conclusion.” I am sure he would welcome it particularly in any speech about himself.

And now in conclusion, therefore, though Laird would have taken special pleasure in pricking any balloons sent up in his honor, I believe this dedication and its meaning for the future would have given him a certain quiet satisfaction. Prospective leaders of the profession he honored, studying in the university he loved, will be reminded as they walk through this quadrangle of the things he stood for.

Let us invoke his spirit to guide them as they go.

Coming Events

The calendar for the Spring Quarter is already crowded and varied. The Visiting Committee of the Law School, under the Chairmanship of the Honorable Walter V. Schaeffer, JD’28, Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, will hold its Annual Meeting at the School on April 7.

The C. R. Musser Lectureship is awarded from time to time for a public lecture on some phase of the problems of government by an experienced citizen who has held public office. The Honorable Elliot L. Richardson, Attorney General of Massachusetts, will deliver the Musser Lecture on April 26.

On May 5, a national meeting of the Board of Directors of the Law Alumni Association will be held as part of the annual Alumni Day program. Peter N. Todd-Hunter, JD’37, is president of the Association.

Also on May 5, Milton Friedman, Paul Snowden Russell Distinguished Service Professor of Economics, The University of Chicago, will deliver the Henry C. Simons Memorial Lecture. This biennial lectureship, in the field of law and economics, was established in 1955 in honor of Henry C. Simons, for many years a distinguished member of the Faculties of the Law School and the Department of Economics.

Finally, on May 11 the Law Alumni Association will hold its Annual Dinner.

The Laird Bell Quadrangle

One of the memorable events in the history of the Law School occurred on October 12, 1966, when the complex of buildings housing the School was dedicated as The Laird Bell Quadrangle.

Phil C. Neal, Dean of the Law School, presided at the ceremonies. Speakers included George W. Beadle, President of the University, Edward H. Levi, JD’35, Provost of the University, Professor of Law, and former Dean of the School, Glen A. Lloyd, JD’23, Life Trustee of the University, former Chairman of its Board and law partner of Mr. Bell, and Robert Maynard Hutchins, President of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions and former Chancellor of the University.

An outline of Laird Bell's remarkable career has appeared in an earlier issue of the Record. An eloquent description of him and of his service to the University and to society generally, may be found in Mr. Hutchins' Dedication Address, on page 1 of this issue.