



*Dean and Mrs. Levi at lunch with the Portland Chicago Alumni Club*

### *Dean Levi Visits Oregon Alumni*

Invitations to address the Seattle Bar Association and the joint meeting of the Oregon State Bar Association and the Multnomah Bar gave Dean and Mrs. Edward H. Levi the opportunity to visit in March with alumni in Seattle and Portland.

"A Jurisprudence for the Legal Profession" was the subject of the Dean's talk before more than two hundred lawyers meeting in Portland.

"Jurisprudence is the description and appraisal of the art of law," Dean Levi said, "but, to the Anglo-American lawyer, jurisprudence for the most part appears to deal with what Professor Dicey has called 'the oddities of the outlying portions of legal science.' This is not wholly true, for in this country on great issues we become insistent upon our jurisprudence.

"The concepts of sovereignty, the state, the separation of powers, justice and natural rights are then used to explain positions. The contribution of jurisprudence to great issues is most inadequate if the science has not kept in touch with the workings of the legal system.

"As lawyers we deal with situations and cases. This is the material from which our law grows. The creation of law out of lawsuits is the essential characteristic of our system of law. Our law, more than any other highly developed legal system, depends upon case reasoning for its development.

"There is no better way to see general truths like these than to watch them at work on homely simple matters of the everyday. The law of negligence as applied to railroad-crossing accidents is an example.

"It is the virtue of case-law reasoning that it achieves continuity with the past, that it shapes the law with due regard for the ideals and judgments of the community, and that, while changing the law, it achieves a measure of consistency essential if human expectations are to be fulfilled."

Dean Levi then discussed the development of the rule of negligence in crossing and roadway cases in England and the United States and reviewed the pattern in Oregon as disclosed by cited cases of the Oregon Supreme Court, going back to the middle 1880's.

"Law-making systems must meet the standards of continuity and practicality," he concluded. "The distinctions and ideas on which rules are based must be understandable and natural to the community. The problem of law-making is not to make new laws for perfect people; rather it is to work with and benefit people as they are.

"Continuity with the future is just as important as continuity with the past. It is respect for the expectations of people which distinguishes the rule of law from the caprice of arbitrary discretion. These requirements are just as applicable to legislation as they are to judge-made law."

The luncheon for Dean and Mrs. Levi with the Chicago Alumni Club in Portland was presided over by Robert L. Weiss '48. While in Seattle, where the Dean spoke before the Bar Association, the Levis also met at lunch with the Seattle Chicago Alumni Club.

Oregon Associate Supreme Court Justice George Rossman '10 introduced Dean Levi at the Portland bar meeting and gave a luncheon in his home for the Levis and the members of the Oregon Supreme Court.