

## DOROTHY WALKER— GIRL PROSECUTOR

The trip on I-94 between Madison and Portage is pleasant, and it was a welcome spring day when the *Gargoyle* visited Dorothy Walker, Class of 1921.

Miss Walker's office, where she has practiced alone since 1938, is next door to Woolworth's and three doors from the First National Bank. It is a spacious, comfortable suite up a single long flight of stairs. Her own office looks out on the street.

She is a trim, small woman, simply dressed and coiffed. Her manner is direct and friendly; she smiles frequently and laughs easily.

Her nearly 50 years of practice have all been in Portage. For the first 18 years, she was associated with Grady and Farnsworth, a leading trial firm. Her work was closely associated with that of Walter Farnsworth, and it was after his accidental death in 1938 that she established her own practice.

Born in Columbus, Miss Walker credits her high school courses in Economics and Commercial Law with sparking her interest in becoming a lawyer. After two years in liberal arts, she spent one year at the Law School at the University of Southern California. The education there she found immensely practical; about 20 trial court judges, plus some federal judges, taught law courses at USC. There were a number of women in her class. She returned to Wisconsin as a second year student, becoming the sole female in the Class of 1921; she describes herself as an "average" student.

It was during the spring vacation of her last year in Law School that her permanent career choice was made. On the street in Columbus she met one of her elementary school teachers, who was the sister of one of Portage's most colorful citizens, Mr. Dan Grady. At Miss Grady's suggestion, she made an appointment with Mr. Grady. He offered her a job, and she accepted. She



Dorothy Walker

moved to Portage in June of 1921, although she was not admitted to the Bar until February, 1922. She was made a partner in her second year.

She has never left Portage. She has always been a trial lawyer, because that was what Grady and Farnsworth trained her to be.

She has had no regrets.

She works full-time. A brief case accompanies her home every evening. Part of each weekend is devoted to her practice. Vacations are seldom and short, usually involving relatively short trips within the United States. Her work is her life and her life is her work.

"I'm glad I came along when I did," says Miss Walker. "There was no discrimination then." Young women in Law School will be astonished to learn that early in her practice, at the urging of her senior associates, she ran and was elected District Attorney of Columbia County, serving two terms. She was twenty-three years old at the time, probably the first female Prosecutor in the United States. Her responsibilities included serving as counsel for the County Board as well as Chief Prosecutor for the County. Most crime at that time consisted of violations of the Prohibition Laws. It was a part-time job, run from her

office at Grady and Farnsworth. Although most of the members of the County Board were older farmers, and all were male, they respected her professional competence and accepted her advice. Nor did she encounter any difficulties because of her youth or sex with Columbia County juries.

"I'm glad I settled where I did," she also says. In a small community, she feels one can become known as a person with unique qualities, and not be generally categorized by age or sex. Almost as soon as she started practice, people from Columbus began coming to Portage to bring her their legal problems.

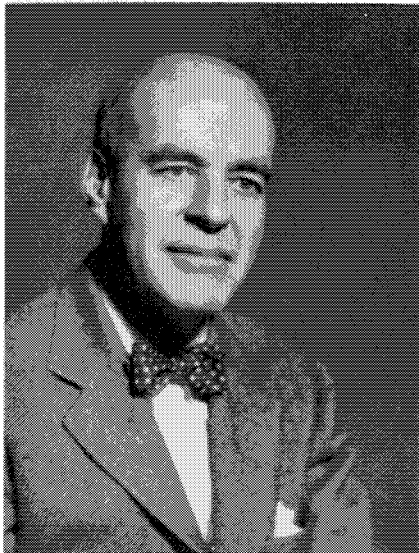
After two terms as District Attorney, she retired from politics, never to re-enter, although she has been a self-styled, rock-ribbed Republican all her life. Only once since her prosecutor days has she re-entered the arena. That was when she was appointed as Special Prosecutor by Judge Van Pelt in a murder case.

There are two people whose influence she credits with her success. Her partner, Walter Farnsworth, was able and thorough, and her eighteen years of work with him, during which they shared completely their professional responsibilities set the pattern for her work alone. She also recalls the great and continuing encouragement she received from Circuit Judge Chester A. Fowler. (He later became a Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice.) When sitting in Portage, he stayed at the hotel where Miss Walker kept an apartment, and she often ate dinner with him, and learned about law from their conversations. In recent years, realizing that she "can't do everything," she has limited her practice to trials and probate. Her clients are both male and female, from all walks of life and all age groups. Her trial work involves all types of civil litigation.

Miss Walker is skillful at shifting the conversation from herself to other women of note. She recalls the successful women practitioners of her generation in the cities of Wisconsin. She recalls her associations with Portage's illustrious natives —

Zona Gale and her husband, William Breese, and the many writers who gathered in Portage for vacations, helping to set a cultural tone which made Portage different from other small cities.

For over 30 years she has lived in a charming house built on a high point overlooking the Wisconsin river. It is a restful and a peaceful spot, but one has the impression of a woman hard at work, who only occasionally looks up from her desk to enjoy the view.



Lloyd K. Garrison

### WHATEVER HAPPENED TO —LLOYD K. GARRISON

"I was happily practicing law in New York when one day Glenn Frank, whom I had never met, invited me to come and see him in his hotel. I went, and out of a clear sky he offered me the deanship at Wisconsin," recalls former Dean Lloyd Garrison as he remembers how he came to be involved in legal education. "... My wife and I went out to Madison for a short visit, and after returning to New York we finally concluded to take the plunge. So we moved out with our three little children and spent there the ten happiest years of our lives." The year was 1932. Newspaper accounts indicate that his salary (\$10,-

000) was the highest in the University, except for the President and the football coach. He reports that when he arrived to assume his post, his salary was cut substantially.

During his ten years as Dean, the expansion of the Law School was such that, at his departure after 10 years, he figures that about 1/2 of the members of the Bar of Wisconsin had been students in the Law School during his tenure. So immediate was the impact of his leadership in legal education that he was soon elected President of the Association of American Law Schools. In 1934, he reported in detail to the AALS on an intensive survey of the Bar of Wisconsin conducted under his supervision by 30 lawyers paid with funds provided by the Civil Works Administration over an intensive six month period. It was a precomputer analysis of the income of lawyers going back to 1880. The development of the business of the legal profession was traced by examining all the records in the Register of Deeds' offices throughout the state, all the court decisions, all the incorporation and bankruptcy records, all the lawyers' income tax returns and all other indices for a 50 year period. The effort was to trace the growth of the Wisconsin Bar to determine the volume and potential volume of business, to compare the practice of law by community, by age group and by the length of experience. The Survey also provided detailed information on the correlation between academic success in Law School and success in the practice of law, which was considerable.

The detailed survey was undertaken to determine whether too many lawyers were being trained,

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and hence consigned to starvation as practitioners. Dean Garrison concluded that, as of 1932 and 1933 (although times were hard, and income was reduced) that there was no over-production of lawyers.

Clearly no one before, and probably no one since, has had such a broad and detailed understanding of the Bar of Wisconsin as Dean Garrison and the staff who conducted the survey.

His intense interest in the nuts and bolts of the life of lawyers was balanced by his broad view of the societal role of the lawyers and the mission of the law schools. In an address to the AALS Section on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar in 1936, he said, "Clearly . . . the task of the law schools is to instill in students not only a scrupulous sense of the ethical requirements of the profession but a dynamic sense of its social responsibilities. The student must be made to see that the maintenance of an independent judiciary depends upon public respect for the profession, and that public respect for the profession depends upon something more than the serving of clients without dishonesty. . . ."

"The students must learn also that, by virtue of the public offices which they fill and in their capacity as advisers, lawyers are the dominant political class in the society, and for that very reason, are obligated to acquire a thorough and sympathetic understanding of the social forces of their time and to act in public affairs as dispassionately, courageously, and generously as the nature of man will permit. . . ."

". . . I do not mean to suggest that we should deliberately set out to produce reformers, for any such attempt would be certain to miscarry. . . . But I do suggest that the truly educated lawyer should know the shortcomings as well as the merits of his profession, should know what is being done to improve the administration of justice and thereby appreciate some at least of the