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Deans Emeriti will attend law dedication

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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

Two friends who played stellar roles in the Montana State University Law School's first half century of progress will witness the auspicious beginning of its second half century at the dedication of a new law building on Sept. 6.

Former Montana Law Deans A. N. Whitlock and C. W. Leaphart, whose paths crossed early and have not diverged too widely since, plan to come from the neighboring states of Kentucky and Tennessee for the dedication events Sept. 6 through 9, according to Dean Robert E. Sullivan.

As young teachers on the liberal arts faculty of the University of Kentucky, the two met and discovered a common ambition to study law. Whitlock left Kentucky to work his way through the Harvard Law School. By 1911 he had received his LL.B. and had just taken a job in a Wall Street firm at the standard salary of $15 a week when he was recruited as one of the three original members of the faculty of Montana's brand new law school.

Whitlock was named dean in 1913, the year that Leaphart took his law degree at Harvard. Whitlock resigned the deanship in 1919 to devote more time to private practice, but he continued on the faculty, teaching courses in evidence until 1935.

Leaphart joined Whitlock on the faculty in 1913 and succeeded him as dean in 1919. He held the post until his retirement in 1954, with the exception of short leaves of absence to earn an S.J.D. degree from Harvard in 1929, carry out an assignment with the Department of Justice in 1937-38 and serve on the War Labor Board during World War II.

The Law School's golden anniversary finds Dean Whitlock enjoying a busy retirement in Lexington, Ky., and Dean Leaphart teaching law at Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn.
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The friends will be brought together again Sept. 6 by the fulfillment of a dream they shared back in the days when the Law School's quarters in the basement of Main Hall earned their students the title of "the cellar boys."

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