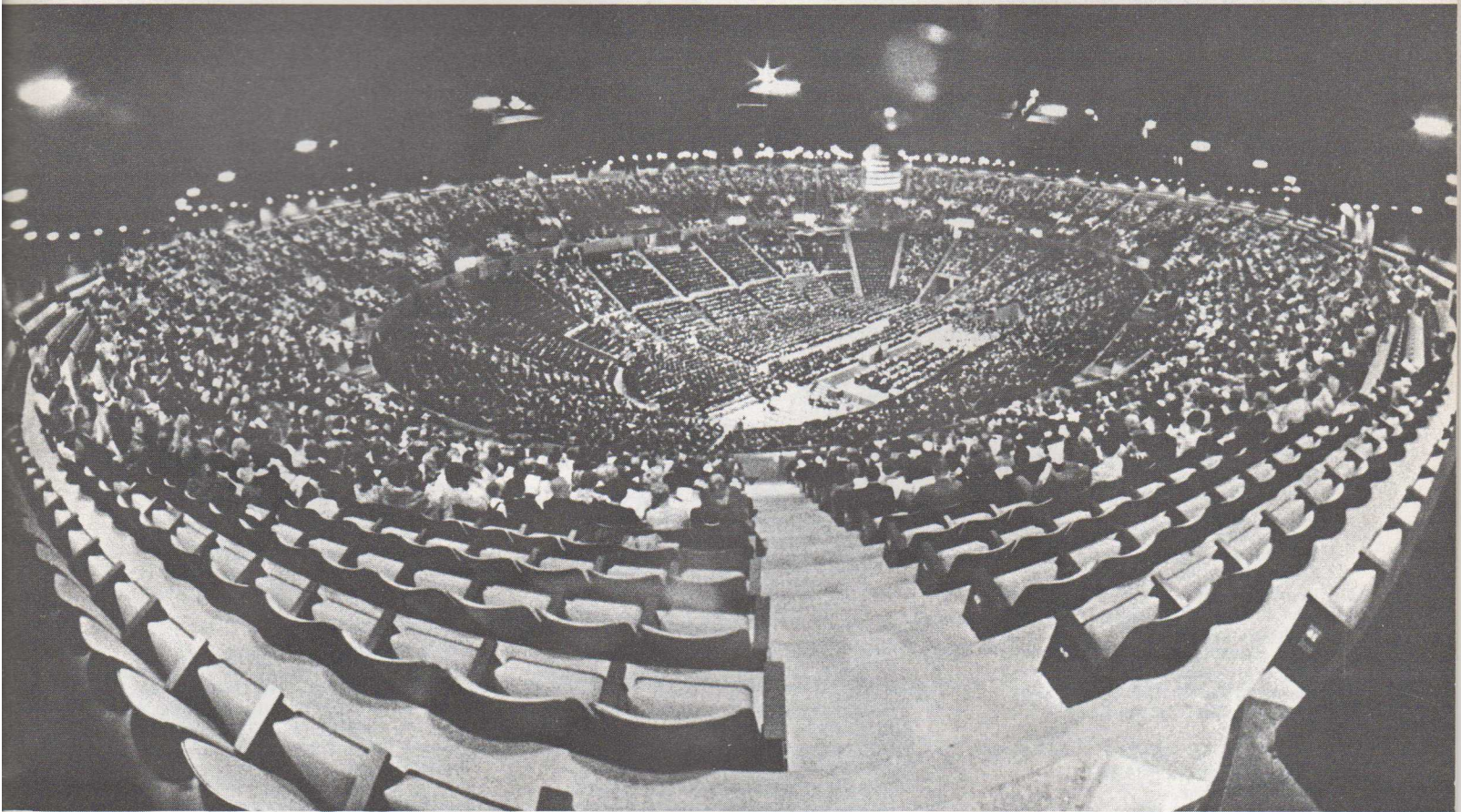


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Profile of Seattle Alumni
Club by R m Burley

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MICHIGAN'S 124th COMMENCEMENT

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ROBY M BURLEY
2611 W 39TH AVE
SEATTLE
WA 98199

(Editor's Note: Down through the decades, few University of Michigan Alumni Clubs have been more active than the one in Seattle, Washington. It was, then, with real enthusiasm that the Alumni Association recently received a history of the Seattle club, written by Roby M. Burley, '20, and Morris J. Robinson, '04. With pleasure, the ALUMNUS herewith brings you excerpts from this history.)

Profile of An Alumni Club

In the years prior to 1913, there were a few impromptu alumni get-togethers which sewed the seeds for the eventual organization of an alumni club. It was in that year that a group of local Michigan alumni met, organized and applied for a charter from the Alumni Association in Ann Arbor. The group was granted Charter No. 4—preceded only by the Ann Arbor, Detroit and Grand Rapids clubs. The committee included Dan Earle, '05, Frank Helsell, '08, William Shannon, '07, and Morris J. Robinson, '04.

Although the pre-World War I history is somewhat sketchy, one notable event is remembered. It was in 1917 when Football Coach Fielding H. Yost visited the Seattle club. At a dinner in his honor, Bruce Shorts, '01, and Dad Gregory, '04, both players on Yost's "point-a-minute" teams, carried in a huge artificial apple and placed it on the table in front of the coach. A trap door opened and out stepped 4-year-old Duane Robinson in a football suit and frosh cap to lead the 250 men present in a Michigan yell and to present Yost with a football inscribed as coming from the Seattle Club. Until his retirement, Yost displayed that inexpensive football among the game balls and other trophies in his office. He always told visitors from Seattle that this was the finest alumni event of his life.

The Michigan Glee Club visited Seattle in 1917, with Frank Helsell, '08, chairman for the concert. It netted \$600, which was used as a student loan fund, a fund, incidentally, that is still active. The Glee Club has visited Seattle in 1957, 1961, 1965 and 1967.

In the 1930's, the Seattle club's secretary, M. J. Robinson, attended a general alumni meeting in Detroit. The then Alumni General Secretary, T. Hawley Tapping, invited him to give a paper on "How to Run an Alumni Club." Later The Michigan Alumnus carried the talk in full.

Perhaps the most outstanding event in the history

of the club came in 1954 when Michigan played Washington in football at Seattle. Two luncheons, a dinner and a brunch surrounding the event were attended by 952 persons. Two years of planning went into the event under the chairmanship of District Director John P. Lawton, '24, and Roby M. Burley, '20.

For many years, the Seattle club had an orchestra composed of Michigan alumni. It performed at all major meetings and once staged an hour-long musical program over radio station KJR.

The Seattle club stimulated "College Night" get-togethers for a number of years. These were social meetings of alumni from all universities and colleges, including the Big Ten schools, and were sponsored by the University of Washington alumni. The U of M Club of Seattle always had the largest representation outside of the University of Washington.

The club entertained University President Clarence C. Little in the late 1920's. His successor, Alexander G. Ruthven and Mrs. Ruthven were the club's guests in 1938 and again in 1948.

Ruthven's successor, Harlan Hatcher, visited the club twice—once in 1954 and again in 1967, with Mrs. Hatcher, on his farewell tour of West Coast alumni clubs.

Three Seattle alumni have served as district alumni directors—Robinson in 1927-29; Burley in 1947-49; and Lawton in 1953-55. These three, as past directors, are eligible to attend the semi-annual directors' meetings in Ann Arbor.

Like most U-M alumni clubs, Seattle has a long list of notable members, but one situation is especially worth mentioning. In 1936, four of the seven justices of the State of Washington Supreme Court were Michigan graduates. They were John S. Robinson, '03, Bruce Blake, '05, William J. Steinert, '05, and William J. Wilkins, '25.