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TRIBUTE

MAYNARD E. PIRSIG: A CHRONOLOGY

Randall Tietjen[†]

This chronology concentrates on Maynard Pirsig's professional life and accomplishments. It is not an exhaustive account, but it summarizes many important events in Maynard's life and shows the variety of his activities. Among many of Maynard's interests not listed below are photography, the commodities market, hunting mushrooms, music, ballroom dancing, and tinkering with cars, electronic equipment, and computers.

1902

Born on January 9 in Kossuth County, Iowa, near Elmore, Minnesota. First of five children (three boys and two girls) of Gustav and Amelia Pirsig.

1902–1919

Raised and lived on mother and father's 160-acre farm. Speaks only German until he begins school. Attends grade school in a single-room country schoolhouse. Graduates from Elmore High School.

1919–1923

Attends the University of Minnesota in the College of Science, Literature, and the Arts. University education paid for by parents. Father had an eighth-grade education and desired that all of his children have a college education. Plays trombone in the University band (but later abandons the instrument because his arms are too short to reach all the notes). Graduates with a B.A. degree, with his last year of course work consisting of freshman law classes.

1923–1925

Attends the University of Minnesota Law School and studies under several prominent professors, including Everett Fraser and Wilbur

[†] Attorney at Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi in Minneapolis.

Cherry, both of whom later became his close friends. Works on the editorial board of the *Minnesota Law Review* and serves as Note Editor for Volume 9. Graduates with an LL.B. degree, achieving virtually a straight-A record. Elected to Order of the Coif. Following courtship of several years, in 1925, marries Harriet Sjobeck, whom he met at a ballroom dance pavilion in Minneapolis called The Track.

1925–1931

Accepts a position as an attorney and director at the Legal Aid Society in Minneapolis. Later would remark that he accepted this position rather than an offer from the Dorsey & Whitney law firm because the Legal Aid position paid more. During tenure as director, established the full-fledged services of the Legal Aid Society and the professional independence of the office from the Minneapolis Family Welfare Association. Also, while director, developed a pioneering legal aid clinic program at the University of Minnesota Law School. In 1929, accepts an urgent invitation from Dean Fraser to teach a course in suretyship at the law school, replacing a faculty member who was ill. Initially resists the invitation on the ground that he had never taken the course, to which Dean Fraser responded, "Neither have the students." Son Robert is born (1928).

1931–1932

As preparation for developing a course in judicial administration, lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts with Harriet and Robert and attends graduate courses in law at Harvard University, studying under Roscoe Pound and Felix Frankfurter.

1932–1933

As further preparation for developing a course in judicial administration, lives one year in England with Harriet and Robert, studying the English legal system. Spends most of his time in the library of the Middle Temple and as a pupil in the chambers of a barrister. For transportation, purchases a one-cylinder motorcycle, with a sidecar for Harriet and Robert. On return from England, rejoins the faculty at the University of Minnesota Law School. Begins renting (and later purchases) a house at 85 Clarence Avenue Southeast (Prospect Park), Minneapolis, where he lived until 1994. Daughter Jean is born (1933).

1934

Begins teaching a course in judicial administration at the University of Minnesota Law School and continues offering this course until he retires from the University in 1970. Over the next thirty-six years, teaches, among other courses, pleading, actions and equity, criminal law, evidence, insurance, and ethics.

1937

Begins service as the secretary of the Minnesota Judicial Council, which continues until 1952. Judicial council was formed by the Minnesota Legislature for the purpose of the continuous study of the organization, rules, and methods of procedure and practice in the courts of Minnesota.

1941

Publishes *The Work of the Supreme Court of Minnesota*, 25 MINN. L. REV. 821.

1942

Appointed by Governor Stassen to fill a three-month vacancy as a justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Wrote the majority opinion in eleven cases, several concurrences, and *five* dissenting opinions, which Chief Justice Henry Gallagher later remarked were indicative of Maynard's "independent thinking."

1943

Begins service as the chairman of the Minnesota State Bar Association committee formed to study the American Law Institute's Youth Conservation Act. The Act sought to introduce a program in each state that would minimize punishment and emphasize treatment of minors (under twenty-one years of age) convicted of criminal offenses or found delinquent. An adaptation of the Act eventually was passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 1947, largely through Maynard's persistent efforts and years of research and work with John Ellingston, a sociology professor at the University of Minnesota. Daughter Wanda is born.

1944

Publishes PIRSIG ON MINNESOTA PLEADING (3d ed.) (revision of 2d ed. of DUNNELL ON PLEADING); *Merger by Judgment*, 28 MINN. L. REV. 419.

1945

Begins service (continuing until 1956) as chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Minnesota Division of Employment and Security, which was responsible for the development and administration of Minnesota's employment security program. Publishes *A Course in Judicial Administration*, 28 MINN. L. REV. 325 (republished at 30 J. AM. JUD. SOC'Y 37 (1946)).

1946

Publishes CASES AND MATERIALS ON JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION.

1947

Spends the summer as a visiting professor at the University of Michigan Law School. Appointed by the Minnesota Governor, Attorney General, and Chief Justice as a member of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Long tenure as a member of the conference included service in many capacities, such as chairman of committees for uniform acts in arbitration, expunging criminal records, juvenile court, and rules of criminal procedure. Several years later, the president of the conference reported that "the [c]ommissioners' wives consider [Maynard] to be the best rhumba dancer in the [c]onference." Publishes *Integration of the Bar and Judicial Responsibility*, 32 MINN. L. REV. 1.

1948

Appointed dean of the University of Minnesota Law School by the Board of Regents, serving until 1955. During deanship, recruits several new faculty members who later became nationally prominent figures in law, including Charles Alan Wright, Michael Sovern, David Louisell, and Jesse Dukeminier. Also, during deanship, develops (with John Ellingston) training program at the university for professionals in delinquency control. Publishes *Procedural Aspects of the Youth Conservation Act*, 32 MINN. L. REV. 471.

1949

Publishes CASES AND MATERIALS ON LEGAL ETHICS.

1950

Named by the United States Supreme Court to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Civil Proce-

dure, succeeding his friend Professor Wilbur Cherry and serving on the committee until 1957.

1953

Begins service as chairman of the Juvenile Court Committee, serving until 1958. Publishes *The Significance of Verbatim Recording of Proceedings in American Adjudication*, 38 MINN. L. REV. 29 (co-authored by David W. Louisell).

1954

Publishes *Toward a Uniform Arbitration Act*, 9 ARB. J. 115.

1955

Resigns as dean of the University of Minnesota Law School and returns to teaching full time as a faculty member. Begins service as a member of the U.S. Department of Labor's Industry Committee for Puerto Rico, including later service as chairman of the committee for four years. Committee established minimum-wage rates in nearly one dozen Puerto Rican industries.

1956

Spends the summer as a visiting law professor at Rutgers Law School. Publishes PIRSIG ON MINNESOTA PLEADING (4th ed.); *New Uniform Arbitration Act*, 11 BUS. LAW. 44; *The Proposed Amendment of the Judicial Article of the Minnesota Constitution*, 40 MINN. L. REV. 815.

1957

Begins service as the reporter for the special legislative advisory committee created to prepare a revision of the Minnesota criminal code. Publicly urges the University Senate Committee on Student Affairs to expel fraternities and sororities that have racial "bias clauses" in their charters or constitutions. Publishes CASES AND MATERIALS ON THE STANDARDS OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION; *Legal Aid Attorney*, 36 MICH. ST. B.J. 16.

1958

Publishes *Minnesota Uniform Arbitration Act and the Lincoln Mills Case*, 42 MINN. L. REV. 333; *Justice Arthur T. Vanderbilt in Retrospect*, 12 RUTGERS L. REV. 427.

1960

Named by the United States Supreme Court to serve as a member of Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, serving until 1970. Publishes *Juvenile Delinquency and Crime: Achievements of the 1959 Minnesota Legislature*, 44 MINN. L. REV. 363.

1962–1963

Lobbies and testifies at the Minnesota Legislature in favor of the proposed criminal code and promotes the proposed code in various cities, often speaking to law enforcement officials. Many vociferous opponents complain that the code is too lenient and would make law enforcement more difficult. Code eventually is enacted by the Legislature. Publishes *Proposed Revision of the Minnesota Criminal Code*, 47 MINN. L. REV. 417.

1964

Publishes *Arbitrability Under the Uniform Act*, 19 BUS. LAW. 763.

1965

Publishes CASES AND MATERIALS ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

1968

At the invitation of the chief justice of the Indonesian Supreme Court and ministers of justice and education, spends three months, with James F. Hogg, reviewing the Indonesian judicial system and advising the Indonesian government on improvements.

1969

Publishes *The Constitutional Validity of Confining Disruptive Delinquents in Penal Institutions*, 54 MINN. L. REV. 101.

1970

Retires from teaching at the University upon reaching mandatory retirement age. Tours the former Soviet Union and parts of Europe with Harriet. Begins teaching at William Mitchell College of Law, eventually teaching courses in criminal law, criminal procedure, professional responsibility, and comparative judicial administration until he retires in 1993. Publishes CASES AND MATERIALS ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (2d ed.).

1971

Appointed by the Minnesota Supreme Court as a consultant to the court's Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure, a position he held until 1990.

1973

Receives the Herbert Lincoln Harley Award from the American Judicature Society, for outstanding contributions to the improvement of the administration of justice.

1974

Publishes *Legal Ethics*, in ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA. Robert Pirsig's *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* is published.

1975

Publishes *National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws' New Uniform Rules of Criminal Procedure*, 61 A.B.A. J. 848 (co-authored by Kenneth Kirwin).

1976

Appointed as a member of the Minnesota Supreme Court's Commission on Juvenile Courts. Publishes CASES AND MATERIALS ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (3d ed.) (co-authored by Kenneth Kirwin).

1979

Wife Harriet dies.

1981

Honorary Doctor of Laws conferred by William Mitchell College of Law.

1982

Travels to the former Soviet Union with a group of lawyers and judges from Minnesota (and daughters Jean and Wanda) to study the Soviet legal system.

1984

Publishes CASES AND MATERIALS ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (4th ed.) (co-authored by Kenneth Kirwin).

1985

Receives Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota.

1987

Daughter Jean dies. William Mitchell College of Law establishes Pirsig Distinguished Lecturer Series.

1988

Assists in developing and teaching comparative judicial administration course for William Mitchell College of Law's "Summer in London" program, and teaches the course for several years in London and Saint Paul.

1989

Publishes *Court Procedure and the Separation of Powers in Minnesota*, 15 WM. MITCHELL L. REV. 141 (co-authored by Randall Tietjen).

1990

Publishes *The Historical Rule of the American Bar Association in Judicial Administration*, 16 WM. MITCHELL L. REV. 1195.

1991

Travels with a contingent of Minnesota judges, lawyers, and law professors to El Salvador to deliver lectures in the Supreme Court of Justice for El Salvador, with Maynard lecturing on judicial administration.

1993

Retires from teaching at William Mitchell College of Law. At the time of his retirement, it was widely believed that he taught longer than any other law professor in the United States then teaching and that he was the oldest person regularly teaching at any law school in the United States.

1994

Suffers compression fractures in his back and moves to New Brighton, Minnesota, near his daughter, Wanda.

1997

Dies on February 5 in New Brighton at the age of ninety-five.