

Full work schedule still keeps attorney busy

says. Years ago the accused were taken to jail and they would sit up there for a few days, then the sheriff would go up and talk with him. He would plead guilty and it was over with. Today the public defender brings them in, they plead not guilty and it increases the court load. In the end they are often found guilty anyway and it has cost money. "The point is, there are a lot of criminal cases filed which never should be tried."

Today the public defender's office employs five attorneys and runs on a \$300,000 budget from the state.

Until about 1925 the sheriff had one girl in the front office, and a deputy. Today Mr. Slack sees all types of duplication of efforts with the county, city and state. In a small way he helped to write the Oregon State Police Act and Mr. Slack believes it was never intended that the state police be on county roads, except for game enforcement. "The duplication is expensive," he says.

"The judges do an awful good job and are able to cope with a multitude of things before them," he says. Mr.



Harry Slack, Sr.

Slack himself is familiar with what the job can be, having served as a pro-tem judge for two years. "You have to temper justice with mercy," he says, but for himself his cases have mainly been civil. Mr. Slack's practice over the years has required his appearance in many other

courts within the state besides Coos County and the U.S. District Court. He has been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

He still works a full schedule, but today only takes the cases that interest him most. He is very interested in taxation and estate work which involves him with citizens of all ages. The tax

laws change all the time and take a lot of reading to keep up with.

Mr. Slack's office today includes his son, Harry Slack Jr., "Marty" Stone and "Mike" Gillespie. Furnished with many original pieces of furniture, the office moved in 1973 to its present location next to the Pioneer Methodist Church at 222 East Second Street.

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