

Suffolk University Archives
Early Student Research Project

**Joseph David Paté Sr.
Suffolk Law School 1927**

Born: September 1, 1900 – Died: June 14, 1981

“Joe” was born in Somerville, Massachusetts. He graduated from Boston College High School in 1917 where he was a member of the debating society. He then went on to Boston College and graduated in 1921 with a Bachelor of Arts degree and honorable mentions in Astronomy and Geology. He studied law at Suffolk Law School, received his degree in 1927, and passed the bar on his first try.

All through his high school and college days he was involved in the theater, either as an actor, producer, or manager. He worked as a councilor and drama coach in the summer at Granite Lake boys camp in NH. He went on to manage a theater in the Boston area.

He was a member of temporary reserves in the Coast Guard, and played trombone in the Army band entertaining troops during Word War I.

He practiced law during the Great Depression, but not many people could afford a lawyer. He sold telephone advertising for a while to make ends meet. In the 1930s, he had two five and dime stores, one in Orient Heights, and one in Teele Square called the *Paty Needle Company*. He ran a side wholesale business importing sewing needles from Germany (which was started by his father, Bernard A. Paty) until events of World War II ended trade with Germany and the business collapsed.

Starting in the early 1940s, he worked 27 years for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Later, he was a real-estate developer in Maine.

Joe enjoyed painting and developed a special style that involved painting with oils on wood panels. His favorite subjects were ships and scenes he imagined from American colonial days.

In 1926, Joe married Mary Beatrice White, (teacher, 1917 graduate of Lesley Normal School, now Lesley University), and during the great economic Depression and after, ably and lovingly supported his wife and five children.

From information in the family archives and from memories of his son, J. David Paté, Jr.

Biography written by:

Catherine M. Pate (granddaughter)

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