

GERALD BARRETT
NAA President 1972

Remembrances by Rolf Valtin
September 2009

“Jerry” was a dapper gentleman - married to Phyllis, southerner and graduate of Duke Law School (together with one Richard Nixon). Jerry was the northerner (Columbia Law School) who was known as the northerner with a southern accent. He ended up as a professor of business administration at Chapel Hill and as faculty advisor to the basketball teams at the University of North Carolina. I well remember the occasion on which I overheard Ralph Seward challenge Jerry on the merits/justification/wisdom of big-time athletics at large universities. They kept the discussion from getting overheated because they were the best of friends. But they plainly disagreed on the subject.

Jerry and Phyllis spent some of the war years (WWII) in Hawaii and named their daughter after the Hawaiian location in which she was born and where he served as an official of the Office of Price Stabilization.

He was a strong believer in an arbitration system which is informal and inexpensive and produces quick results – see his presidential address.¹ We all nodded in approval but nothing ever came of it (meaning that extensive Opinions are still the order of the day).

¹ 1973 Proceedings, pp 95-99; “The Common Law of the Shops”