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Report of the Wyoming Law Journal

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REPORT ON THE WYOMING LAW JOURNAL

President Sampson suggested to me some time ago that the Bar would be interested in a report from the University on the Wyoming Law Journal.

As to the physical facts, we have done one-half of our job and the remainder is in progress. Issues number 1 and 2 have been printed and distributed. All copy for issue number 3 is now in the hands of the printers and practically all of the material for issue number 4 is on hand and will be ready for publication in September.

Next, I suppose that we should state our alibis. We distributed a December issue in May, a February issue in August, and we will probably not meet the publication dates for our May and July issues. We shuddered when we told the printer to put those dates on the cover, but those are dates we hope to make some day and we will stick by them. The Journal did not really get its start until January 1947. It had no organization, and when one was set up it of course required training and experience in checking, proof reading, selection of topics, and selection of materials. We have had to learn a good deal about printing—type styles, format, proof-reading, and that printing takes labor and time, and is not done with a magic wand. This coming year we will have a nucleus of trained editors and we have a year's experience that will lead, I am sure, to greater efficiency. We are receiving excellent cooperation from the publisher and I believe that we can assure you of more prompt service on future issues.

In the report of the Wyoming Law Journal Committee submitted to the meeting of the Bar last year, two major objectives of the Journal were set forth. One of these was the improvement of legal education at the University. This I can wholeheartedly report has been achieved. When a student's first note has finally been accepted he has learned several things that might otherwise come only as a result of hard knocks in practice. He has learned the discipline of extended research and analysis, of sticking closely to a single point, of compressing his ideas and words into an accepted professional form. He has had the benefit of faculty and student criticism of his work, and learned to view his work through another's eyes. In short, he has made a long step toward professional competence, a step that was impossible before the inauguration of the Journal.

The second objective of the Journal was to render a real service to the members of the Wyoming State Bar. In attempting this goal the Journal has taken over some functions previously performed by other means, such as reporting the meetings of the State Bar and publishing a membership list. In addition, we have tried to make our law school contributions not only interesting but also valuable to the Wyoming attorney. Problems of state law that have not yet been decided are explored, decided cases are analyzed and fitted into the broader scheme of the law. The student reaches his own conclusion, but only after a survey and exposition that will, we hope, enable an attorney on either side of the question to say: "This is exactly what I need." Your continuing support will be our assurance that we have fulfilled our purpose of giving the Bar something that it needs and wants.

As to our plans, we hope to continue with increasing standards of excellence. As I have said, we have material on hand for the 4th issue of volume 1, and we hope to publish that and the 4 issues of volume 2 during the current year.

The University has appropriated funds for the coming year that, with continued support from this association, will insure the permanence of the Journal. Our expenses to date have been well within our budget, and the cost to the Bar of the first issue was approximately 40c per copy. Increased printing costs have added somewhat to this, but it is hoped that a slight increase will not dampen the interest of the Bar. We have sent copies of our first issues to leading law schools and we hope that through a system of exchanges the fame and reputation of the Wyoming Law Journal will spread and grow.

I would like to close with some acknowledgments of the fine cooperation the Journal has had from many persons. On the University side, President Humphrey, the University Trustees, and Dean Hamilton have given us the authority, the funds and assistance, without which the Journal would have been impossible. Professor L. V. Ackman has given unstintingly of his time and his invaluable experience obtained on the Minnesota Law Review. The student editors have done a fine job and the student body has entered into this work with refreshing enthusiasm. On the side of the State Bar, I wish to thank President Sampson and the Commissioners for their fine cooperation, and Secretary-Treasurer Laughlin for his assistance in ironing out many of our broader problems and finer details, and in conclusion I wish to thank the entire Wyoming State Bar for making this publication possible.

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