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Tribute

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Tribute

*Joseph R. Geraud**

I was there as a student in the fall of 1947 when George commenced his teaching career with the College of Law of the University of Wyoming; and I was there when the law faculty assembled this past summer to honor George on the occasion of his formal retirement as a full-time faculty member. During those intervening years, he established himself as a teacher, scholar, and an advocate for excellence in the College of Law as the only law school in the State of Wyoming.

The law school student body in 1947 consisted mainly of returning G.I.'s and we had some anxieties because a forty percent turnover in the full time faculty was about to occur (two out of five full-time positions). We had no role as students in the hiring process and could only trust Dean Hamilton and Frank Trelease to pick the best. The other new arrival was Eugene O. Kuntz. It is noteworthy that both of these individuals remained dedicated to legal education for their entire careers, including the willingness to take a turn as a Dean at their respective law schools when the opportunity arose. As a student seeking the secret of what the professor wants on his exams, I quickly learned that if assigned materials were studied and briefed before class, extensive notes taken during class, and both reviewed, the course always came together at the tend of the term just as any good plan. There were times when an individual class seemed far removed, but upon review it had its place.

It soon became apparent George had a commitment to the law school and family growth. However, there was always conjecture as to which came first when fishing was at its best. No nearby river, stream, or lake went unexplored by George. His expertise as a fisherman became legendary. I finally consoled myself as to why I couldn't catch a fish under the same circumstances as George. He thinks like a fish when necessary.

Conflict between duty and fishing was not uncommon to George. In addition to being a professor, he was appointed as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the University of Wyoming Trustees for a number of years. There came a day when the Trustees assembled in Laramie needed legal advice. They had to summon their learned counsel from his watch over a hole in the ice on one of his favorite fishing lakes. To his credit, George had his priorities straight and kept bread on the table by keeping the Trustees waiting for only a minimal time. George did ultimately eliminate the necessity of restricting fishing opportunities when the Trustees were in session. He talked me into substituting as Trustee legal advisor while he went off as a visiting professor at Ohio State. Upon return, he announced he no longer desired to continue such duty and I simply continued as the additional stipend was welcome.

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As a fellow faculty member, we could count on George to seek a minimum of faculty meetings of short duration and to consistently follow two guiding principles: (1) If its working, don't try to fix it, and (2) Law schools should stick to what they can do best. As our federal income tax expert, George would suffer through every amendment or revision of the federal tax law and dutifully revise his course. I do think the last amendments passed by Congress may have convinced him to seek full-time fishing.

For all his contributions to the College and the Bar of the State of Wyoming, as well as to me as a student and fellow faculty member, I wholeheartedly join in dedicating this issue to George Rudolph.