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HAPPY BIRTHDAY
LAND AND WATER LAW REVIEW

George Rudolph

When the law school reopened after World War II, with a faculty of five including the dean and one full-time secretary, its most ambitious undertaking was the founding of the Wyoming Law Journal. This was made possible by the Wyoming State Bar which purchased a continuing subscription for each member, payable from the member's dues. At that time the State Bar had neither an office nor any full-time employees and, therefore, could levy very modest dues for equally modest services. As a quid pro quo the Law Journal agreed to publish the proceedings of the annual meeting of the State Bar.

The original purpose of the Law Journal was to provide an opportunity for students to publish, and in this it succeeded. Because of the small size of the student body, every student could write with at least a reasonable expectation of being published. Some did not succeed for lack of perseverance or a basic lack of ability to write fluently.

As time passed, the weaknesses of the Law Journal became evident. It was nearly impossible to attract lead articles from persons other than the local faculty and, occasionally, State Bar members. Beyond that, there was no evidence that the Law Journal was much circulated or read outside the boundaries of the state. For these reasons, the law school, under the leadership of then dean, Frank Trelease, replaced the Law Journal with The Land and Water Law Review. The Law Journal did, in a sense, continue as the Wyoming Division of the new publication.

The problems were not, of course, solved overnight. The first issue of the new Law Review included three articles by Wyoming faculty and one by a Wyoming practitioner. But there was also one by a New Mexico professor, and that might be considered to mark a beginning, which is not to say that the latter article was better than the others.

Since then the Law Review has been increasingly successful in attracting articles from recognized experts in various natural resource subjects. From this it has earned a solid reputation beyond the boundaries of the state. Lead articles in the Wyoming Division of the Law Review continue to come mostly from Wyoming lawyers, but there has been a significant improvement in quality. Like the law school, generally, the Land and Water Law Review has come of age.