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Happy Birthday Land and Water Law Review

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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.