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THE LAND AND WATER LAW REVIEW — THE MIDDLE YEARS

George A. Gould

I am pleased to have been asked to comment on the *Land and Water Law Review* on the occasion of its twenty-fifth year. I had a direct association with the *Land and Water Law Review* from 1971 to 1979 (Volumes 7-14), first as a staff member and later as the faculty editor. While my involvement with the *Review* has been greatly diminished in recent years, my interest in it continues.

By 1971, the *Review* had become an established publication. The seemingly schizophrenic nature of the *Review* as a specialized journal dealing with natural resources law and as a general interest journal serving the Wyoming Bar had proved successful, and the *Review* was beginning to achieve national recognition. At the same time, the *Review* was still new enough that the sense of excitement and adventure associated with launching a new publication persisted.

Over its entire existence, the *Review* has remained remarkably consistent in style, content, and quality. However, two noteworthy changes in process occurred during the middle years. The first involved the manner in which the editor-in-chief is selected. Initially, the editor-in-chief was selected by the faculty editor. This responsibility was transferred to the outgoing editorial staff. This change accompanied a broader change of increased student responsibility for the *Review*. In the beginning, the faculty member assigned to the *Review* had a substantial role, as evidenced by the title "faculty editor." That role steadily declined. By the end of my direct association with the *Review*, the faculty role had become largely advisory, although the title had not yet been changed from faculty editor to faculty advisor.

The second change involved the selection of the law review staff. Membership on the staff was based solely on academic performance for many years; the top ten to twelve students from each first-year class were offered membership. During the middle years, the policy was changed to allow students who did not qualify academically to seek membership through the submission of a written piece. This process, known as "writing on," made the *Review* a more democratic institution and added significantly to the quality of student written notes and comments.

As I was preparing this letter, several people suggested that it might include colorful anecdotes. Unfortunately, I don't remember any, although I am sure there were many. Certainly, there were problems with authors who missed deadlines, with printers who were late returning copy or whose copy contained numerous errors, and with postal authorities who disagreed as to the appropriate rate of postage. I also remember recurring concerns with whether there was too much copy,

or too little copy, for a particular issue and with whether the balance between the Land and Water Division and the Wyoming Division or between student and nonstudent articles was appropriate. And I doubt that anyone associated with law review has forgotten the intellectual stimulation provided by cite checking and conforming footnotes to the Harvard "Bluebook." Similarly, I doubt that any law review staff has escaped the embarrassment of typographical errors which, despite superhuman efforts, survive in the printed edition. I believe there is even one in the title of an article in the *Land and Water Law Review*. These, however, are not anecdotes, but expected tribulations. Although the mechanics of publication are different—we were not yet computerized—I suspect that most of these problems endure.

On a personal level, I also remember fondly the students who made up the law review staff. As the brightest that the law school had to offer, they were always exciting to work with. It was the tradition in those times for the faculty editor to host a law review party each year. These occasions left my beverage supplies substantially depleted. Nevertheless, I enjoyed them immensely.

The challenge of the middle years was to nurture the growing reputation of the *Land and Water Law Review*. Looking back, I believe this challenge was met. These issues contain a number of important articles from leading scholars and lawyers, in addition to many excellent student pieces. I am proud of my years of association with the *Land and Water Law Review*, and I wish it continued success during the next twenty-five years.