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Tribute

E. George Rudolph

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TRIBUTE

*E. George Rudolph**

I have known Joe Geraud for more years than either of us would like to admit, both as a student and fellow faculty member. One memory of Joe as a student stands out. During his senior year he was editor-in-chief of the Wyoming Law Review, and I was faculty advisor. One issue of the Journal was devoted to a series of student papers on the Wyoming property tax. Joe not only served as editor but also contributed an article entitled, "The Tax Sale Purchaser's Lien." It was a wondrously complex piece, but after more than forty years is badly out of date. Now that he has more time available perhaps he could do an updated version.

After Joe graduated from law school, he began a graduate degree program at the University of Michigan, but that was the time of the Korean War and he was shortly called into active duty by the Navy. He served as a Law Specialist until 1955 when he joined the faculty.

In 1964 I took leave of absence and Joe replaced me as the University attorney, which was then very much a part-time job. But affairs became more complicated, the responsibilities of the University attorney increased and Joe became a full-time administrator. At that point he moved to Old Main where he also served as Vice President for Student Affairs.

Joe returned to the full-time faculty in 1980 and has had primary responsibility for property law courses. At an earlier point in his career, he was a project director for the Public Land Law Review Commission. The work of the Commission contributed to the subsequently enacted Federal Land Policy and Management Act. More recently his specialty has been oil and gas law. He has served, and I suspect, may continue to serve, as the Rocky Mountain Editor of the *Oil and Gas Reporter*, published by the Southwestern Legal Foundation. These have obviously been important contributions to the law school's repu-

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tation in the natural resources area.

I will miss Joe for a different reason. We taught related property law courses and would discuss and cuss the relevant decisions of the Wyoming Supreme Court as the advance sheets came out. One decision stands out. It involved the remedies available to the seller when the buyer under an installment land contract defaults. Three justices wrote opinions, and it seemed impossible to determine the rule which the court applied and its significance for later cases. Joe and I discussed it off and on over a couple of weeks. Then we explained it to our students and thoroughly confused them, especially those who took both courses.

For many years Joe has served the law school, the legal profession and the University very well, and we will miss him. He seems too young to retire. On a more personal note, I will miss him as one of the few remaining fellow smokers. Nonetheless I wish him well in his retirement and hope he enjoys the transition back to sheep ranching.