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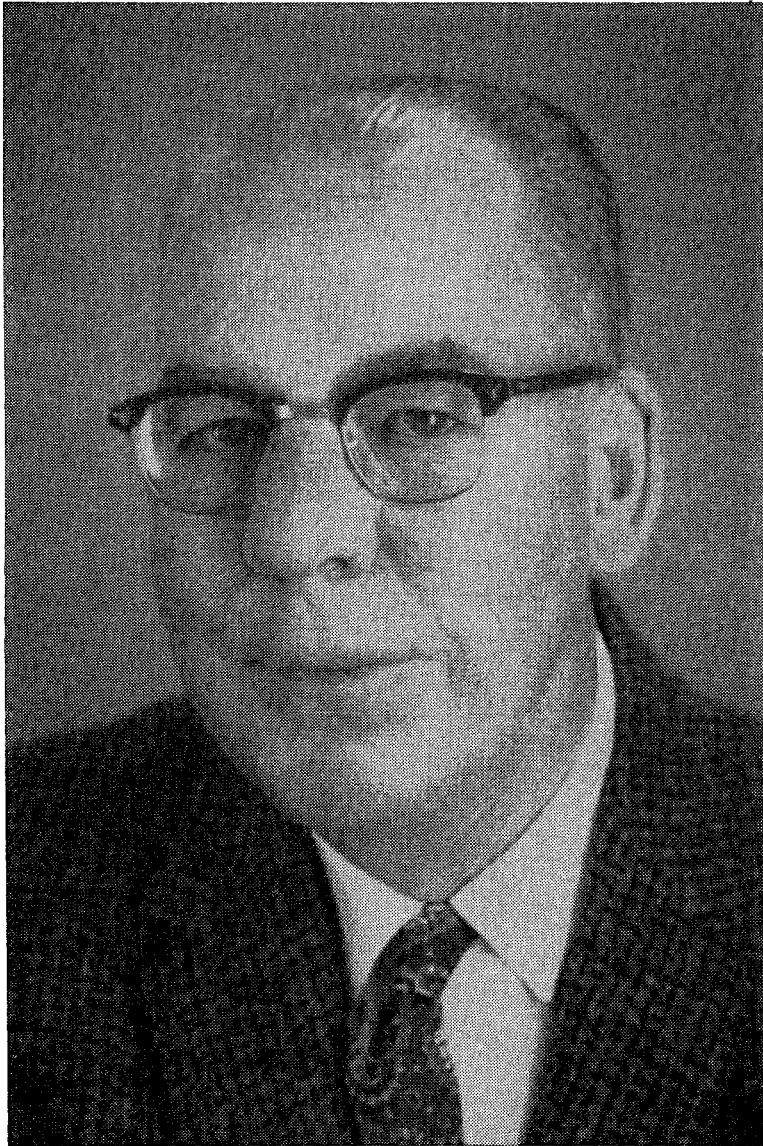
In Memoriam: Verle Rue Seed, 1903-1967

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VERLE RUE SEED

VERLE RUE SEED, 1903-1967

Verle Rue Seed of the University of New Mexico law faculty died on May 21, 1967. Although he had been unwell for many months, he carried on his classes to the end, and heard the applause of his students as he concluded the last class meeting of the year only two days before he entered the hospital.

Professor Seed was born in Bridgeport, Illinois, in 1903, and was an alumnus of the University of Illinois where he earned the degrees of A.B., B.S. and J.D. He also received the degree of LL.M. from Columbia University.

He practiced law for eight years in Phoenix, Arizona, before starting his career as a law teacher. He taught at the University of South Dakota from 1936 to 1943, and at the University of Kansas in 1946-47. He joined the faculty of the University of New Mexico School of Law when that school first opened its doors in the fall of 1947. Here he remained for the last twenty years of his life. His death deprives the school of the last remaining member of its original faculty.

Professor Seed taught many subjects during his career, but his fields of special learning were Real Property and Oil and Gas. He had served since 1956 as a Trustee of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. What was more important, he had, to a unique degree, the fond regard of his students, to whom he was "Pappy Seed." A whole generation of lawyers will remember him with affection.

HENRY WEIHOFEN*

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PROFESSOR SEED—TEACHER AND FRIEND

To some of his students the foremost memory of Professor Seed is of the A, B, C diagrams in Real Property with the arrows drawn between the letters as facts were developed and reasons given. To others it is the analysis of cases in the Oil and Gas course that ended with the “probable result” in New Mexico when the question is presented for decision.

Older students remember the “equitable” umpiring at student ball games—regardless of the pitch, a ball usually followed a strike. A few remember the day he apologized for bringing the wrong lecture notes and then talked on what he would have said if he had brought the right notes—for the entire class period. Almost all remember his insistence that the student get to class on time—the tardy student usually was called on to discuss the next case.

Many of his students remember him with phrases such as—“he always had time for me” or “he’s the reason I stayed in law school” or “if hadn’t been for him I wouldn’t have graduated.”

He believed that without knowledge of the law “as it is” one was not properly equipped to discuss the law “as it ought to be.” He taught the law “as it is,” certain that the “ought to be” would be developed by the lawyer in representing his client’s interest. Thus, some remember him as the practical professor—the one who never “lobbied” a particular viewpoint.

He was esteemed by his students. They will continue to remember him with fondness as teacher and friend.

JOE W. WOOD*

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