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## IN MEMORIAM: J. BYRON McCORMICK

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Dr. McCormick's life as student, teacher, administrator, counselor, and citizen is rich in contributions to the profession of law and to the society he served so ably and influenced so well.

He possessed many qualities that made him something very extraordinary as a person. One of the most important of these qualities was his desire and striving for professional excellence. This is abundantly illustrated by the manner in which he prepared himself in study and formal preparation for the profession of law. After receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1915 and practicing law in Illinois for ten years, he served as a member of the faculty of the College of Law at the University of Arizona from 1926 until June 30, 1970. His more than twenty-six years as an active classroom teacher were interspersed with continued intensive study and the preparation of scholarly writings. He attained the Master of Law degree from the University of Southern California in 1930 and the Degree of Doctor of Juridical Science from Duke University in 1933. It is clear that he fully recognized the importance of advanced study with eminent scholars in order to be well prepared for effective teaching and scholarly attainment.

Dr. McCormick's classroom teaching reflected his superb intellect and the intensive and systematic practice of keeping fully abreast of changes and new developments in the law. His manner of conducting classes typically followed the Socratic method in which his participation showed careful, lucid, and searching analysis. The ease and skill with which he separated the important from the unimportant in getting at the crucial issues in complex cases are still subjects of discussion wherever his former students gather. He would present a wealth of illustrative material and conduct every classroom session with dignity, calm and poise

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as well as dry and pointed humor. Because of the lively and interesting sessions, students were infrequently absent from his classes, though they preferred to be absent rather than attend class and be found wanting when called upon to recite.

Through the years, Dr. McCormick taught many courses. His special fields were corporation law, public utilities, and water law. He was frequently called upon to render service as a consultant to public bodies with respect to problems in these areas.

His achievements in educational administration as Dean of the College of Law and President of the University of Arizona were of the same high order of excellence as those in his teaching and scholarly endeavors. While Dean, his leadership brought enhanced national prestige to the College of Law and greatly increased its service to the State. Each year he travelled throughout Arizona visiting law offices to confer professionally with alumni of the College and other members of the Bar. During these years he knew personally literally every member of the Arizona Bar. Invaluable to the University of Arizona were the weekly law luncheons that he sponsored on the campus for faculty members of the College and for guests. Prominent persons having business in Tucson from outlying parts of the State often planned their schedules so as to be in Tucson on Thursday, the day of the weekly luncheons. Outstanding national figures of the legal profession when visiting Tucson almost invariably attended these Law College luncheons. The University of Arizona and its Law College became much better known throughout the nation because of these occasions.

Measured by all indices of University development, the critical post-war years from 1947 to 1951 when Dr. McCormick served as President were without precedent in the history of the University. With vast numbers of veterans returning to college, student enrollment almost doubled; the faculty grew in size and rose in quality; and financial support increased sharply. The Faculty Constitution adopted shortly before he assumed office was implemented smoothly and successfully in large part because of his interest and support. The influence of Dr. McCormick was felt in the councils of the National Land-Grant Association and in the affairs of the Association of State Universities. The Arizona Board of Regents in 1951 expressed the keenest regret that he was relinquishing the presidency. They commended him for the able and distinguished service rendered during a period of major transition in which the institution experienced enormous growth and development in all of its vital phases. They recorded a sense of appreciation of his leadership "marked consistently by calm understanding and clear purpose, and by a patient and tolerant consideration of the views of all who were concerned with the progress of the University." They commended him for his vision and sound judgment and for the abundant and rich measure in which he met the re-

sponsibilities of the office. They officially acknowledged their pleasure and satisfaction in working closely with him and remarked upon his good humor and his exemplary standards of professional and personal conduct.

As a wise and dependable counselor, Dr. McCormick served many organizations and good causes. An enumeration would include the Arizona State Legislature, Tucson Medical Center, Arizona Interstate Stream Commission, Tucson Chamber of Commerce, and local, state, and national legal organizations, including the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association. In recognition of a life of distinguished professional service, in 1965 he was designated Fellow-at-Large of the American Bar Foundation. He was a Board member of the Tucson Red Cross for many years and its President in 1942-46. He served a term as Secretary of the National Convention of the American Red Cross, and was a member of the Board of Governors of the American National Red Cross in 1950-56. During World War II, he served as a member of the Regional War Labor Board. The records of all of these organizations contain evidence of the high esteem in which his co-workers held him.

Not long after Dr. McCormick joined the faculty of the College of Law and continuing through his years of service as an administrator and as Adviser to the Board of Regents, he was called upon by the Arizona State Legislature for counsel with respect to many problems being considered for legislative action. Because of his sound knowledge of Arizona law and his appreciation of the importance of careful attention to every detail, he was asked to write many bills. This is well exemplified by much of the legislation pertaining to higher education. A good illustration of this service occurred in 1945 when the leadership of the Arizona State Legislature and the Board of Regents of the University of Arizona turned to him for the preparation of legislation to provide for a single Board of Regents in place of three separate Boards for the three four-year institutions of higher education in this State.

In 1957, the Arizona Board of Regents called upon him to become virtually full-time Adviser to the Board on educational matters. Upon his complete retirement from this position in the summer of 1970, the Board of Regents said of Dr. McCormick in a formal resolution, "The members of the Arizona Board of Regents wish to record a deep sense of appreciation of the services by J. Byron McCormick in his advisorship role to the Board during the last fourteen years. The record of service of Dr. McCormick to the University of Arizona dating from 1926 reveals very distinguished service in a variety of important positions, including those of Professor and Dean of the Law College and President of the University of Arizona. The impact of his educational services and other contributions to the development of the State of Arizona is measured in terms of great magnitude."

The large and varied contributions by Dr. McCormick as teacher, ad-

ministrator, counselor, and civic leader will have enduring influence on countless persons and many institutions which he served. Those fortunate enough to have close association with him as colleagues and friends will always enjoy the rewards and cherish the memories of these relationships.

I first became acquainted with Dr. McCormick during the school year 1932-33 when he was on sabbatical leave from the University of Arizona and earning the degree of Doctor of Juridical Science at Duke University where I was instructor of economics. We developed a close and continuing friendship as colleagues beginning in 1934 when I joined the University of Arizona faculty where he had already served for seven years.

Upon my succession to him as President of the University of Arizona, he indicated clearly that if at any time I wished to secure any information from him out of his experience at the University of Arizona or wanted to have his judgment with reference to any question, he would be pleased to be helpful in any possible manner. He urged, however, that he wanted me to understand that at no time would he give any unsolicited advice regarding University policy matters for my consideration. He certainly observed this in a very scrupulous manner in spite of the fact that I urged that he feel no reticence whatever in referring matters to me and giving me the benefit of his judgment. Needless to say, I did get the benefit of his judgment. Needless to say, I did get the benefit of his counsel on many occasions both before and during the period that he served as Adviser to the Board of Regents. It would be impossible for me to exaggerate the high quality of this service. It is equally important, though, to emphasize the fact that we had many more visits, in the office, at luncheon periods, or in our respective homes when University matters were never discussed at all, and there was never a dull or uninteresting moment on these occasions.

I found him to be a thoughtful, kindly, modest, and unassuming person, quiet in manner, always of good humor and with almost infallible good judgment. He understood people well and could distinguish a counterfeit from the genuine with comparative ease. His understanding of people and institutions was revealed in many ways, one of which was in essays he read before a small, comparatively unorganized and wholly unpublicized group that met monthly during much of the year. Whether his essay related to people and life in his native community of Emden, Illinois, or to the Sears Roebuck catalog, it was eagerly received and greatly enjoyed. His presentations always reflected a keen, observing mind with respect to people, institutions, and mores of our society.

Dr. McCormick took an active interest in and was a careful student of public affairs. He read widely and was intensely interested in political and social movements. He enjoyed the fine arts and had a very special

interest in theater. Indeed, hardly a year passed that he and Mrs. McCormick did not get to New York for at least a week to see the leading productions on Broadway.

Despite all his many interests and activities, Dr. McCormick was a devoted family man. More than anything else he enjoyed being with his wife Rachel and daughter Nancy and her husband, Ray Clark, and the four grandsons in whom he had great pride and satisfaction.

In summing up, I cannot think of anything that describes the life and work of Dr. McCormick so well as the title of an editorial in the *Arizona Republic* following his death:

#### HIS FIELD WAS HUMANITY