NEW JERSEY

1935

LAW SCHOOL
No activity, scholastic or extra-curricular, of New Jersey Law School could properly reach fruition without recounting that its consummation of effort, its existence, its success was made possible by the foresight and unceasing tireless efforts of a man who is primarily responsible for the wholesome growth of New Jersey Law School. The 1935 Legacy takes this opportunity of extending the appreciation of the Senior Class and the student body to this individual—our former President and present Treasurer, Richard Dudley Currier.
HISTORY OF NEW JERSEY LAW SCHOOL

It is surprising to one who is now familiar with the record of New Jersey Law School to realize that such a standard was created in but twenty-six years. Back in the days of the first Roosevelt the great sovereign State of New Jersey boasted many worthy lawyers, great judges, fine exponents of all that the law stood for—but to its shame it lacked one vital factor—a law school. Ironically the very training ground for those same lawyers and judges was missing. Naturally such a situation could not exist long. The moral and physical growth of the state needed the wholesome stimulus of the institution. The University of New Jersey was no longer an embryo. It was growing and ready to absorb the best as it extended itself on a grand scale. A law school was needed. It was only a matter of time before a law school would be established. The guiding hand was New Jersey. The state was fortunate in that it possessed not one such institution but three. Three men united to further one purpose, each striving to reach a common goal, efforts unified in one direction. Success could be the only result of such work. The men were and are well known in the semi-public life of New Jersey, past and present. Richard D. Currier, Percival G. Bernard, and the late Dean Charles M. Mason were the very cornerstones of the edifice that is now our law school.

In an ambitious mood the incorporators chartered their first school as the "University of Newark." That charter still governs the operation of the school but its certificate of incorporation was soon amended to read "New Jersey Law School," its present appellation. The first situs of the school peculiarly enough identified it with the "strength of Gloucester"—that situs was the fourth floor of the Prudential Insurance Company on Broad Street, in Newark. That was in October, 1908. Classes grew larger. More room was the question of the hour. The Law School moved its classes to rooms in the Wood Building, now extinct, then on Market Street. Its offices it maintained in the Prudential Building.

The school continued to grow. Therefore another move was still necessary in the same year. A three story building was purchased for the new campus but its certificate of incorporation was soon amended to read "New Jersey Law School." Its present appellation. The first situs of the school peculiarly enough identified it with the "strength of Gloucester"—that situs was the fourth floor of the Prudential Insurance Company on Broad Street, in Newark. That was in October, 1908. Classes grew larger. More room was the question of the hour. The Law School moved its classes to rooms in the Wood Building, now extinct, then on Market Street. Its offices it maintained in the Prudential Building.

The school continued to grow. Therefore another move was still necessary in the same year. A three story building built in the former home of Newark's mayor, the Honorable Robert Peddie, was the next selection. The school moved there in December, 1908. In 1921 the building, situated at 33 East Park Street, Newark, was remodeled. Title was also acquired to adjoining buildings and, in 1921, a new structure of graceful Gothic architecture was erected. These buildings comprised the home of New Jersey Law School until June, 1930. At that date the former Ballantine Brewery Building on Rector Street was chosen to be the permanent home of the Law School. Two years prior to that date the Pre-Legal Department had moved into that building. It is interesting to note that the enrollment of the school reached the mark of 255 students in 1927—a mark at that time established the school as the second largest law school in the United States.

The first bit of official recognition afforded the school came from the State Board of Bar Examiners in May, 1908. They recognized the Law School as a school of "established reputation" and permitted students to count their time spent at school in pursuit of the law as a part of the necessary legal education. Because of the presence of an act requiring an application to the State Board of Education, no school and colleges not organized for at least twenty-five years prior to the passage of the act, for permission to grant degrees, New Jersey Law School made such application and received permission to grant the L.L.B. degree, 1912. Thirteen years later the school was granted permission to present the L.L.M. degree. That right was confirmed in 1932. The school was first registered with the New York Board of Regents in 1922, and since then has been governed in its granting of degrees by the rules and regulations of that body.

Before 1913 the only prerequisite to a law school course was the successful completion of a high school course. This was obviously inadequate. Furthermore the founders of our school religiously strove to conform to the standards set by the American Bar Association. Therefore it was no great surprise when, in 1913, the announcement was made that thereafter the course would be extended from two to three years. And then in October, 1922, a Pre-Legal course was offered for the first time. Because the course was still optional the success of the experiment was extremely doubtful. In March, 1925, the catalog of the school announced that starting in September, 1927, all candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Laws would be required to present evidence of completion of one year of work in an approved college; those entering in September, 1929, would be required to show two years of such work. It was an admirable step, made still more so when it is shown that the step was taken voluntarily by the administration of the school.

In April, 1930, Dana College was incorporated. Its name was selected as a fitting gesture to the famous Newarkian, John Cotton Dana. The entire good-will and plant of the Pre-Legal Department of the New Jersey Law School was transferred to the College. At the same time the school organized and took under its direction the Seth Boyden School of Business. Dana College has already received the right to grant the A.B. degree. It has, in that short space of time, received endowments totaling $75,000.

In May, 1933, the Law School, the Business School, and the College merged under an agreement whereby the three schools would operate jointly as nonprofit making institutions. The purpose of such an arrangement was to facilitate the creation of a central educational unit in Newark—University. Changes were made in the charters of the Law School and in the College so that the schools could conform to the strict requirements of the state in New Jersey governing the operation of nonprofit making schools, that law being the "Act to Incorporate Associations Not For Profit." Within the last year the State Board of Education has granted to Dana College the additional privilege of granting the degree of Bachelor of Business Administration. There has recently been a reorganization of the Board of Trustees of Dana College. Richard D. Currier resigned as President of the College, and accepted the position of President of Dana College is Dr. Frank Kingston, the forward looking, liberal thinker and former minister.

The growth and activity of the institution has not been confined merely to a physical expansion. The students of the New Jersey Law School were imbued with the same courage and willingness that has consistently emanated from their leaders. The student body successfully petitioned for a representative form of student government. The Student Council of New Jersey Law School was established as the student forum. The year 1927 saw three publications simultaneously sponsored by the Student Council. In that year the publication of "The Legacy," "The Barrister," and the student hand book, "The Law Lookout" was commenced. From that time two publications were the very medium that sufficed to utilize the active energy that was the natural by-product of earnest scholarly strivings. But there was still a craving desire for another outlet for that same energy.
The Administration, with Dean Harris in the forefront, was destined to be the champion of the next important phase of extra-curricular work. The New Jersey Law Review was established in the Fall of 1934. It is a book that effects a proper correlation between the classroom instruction and the independent, voluntary, practical research that is so vitally necessary in molding the trained lawyer. The Law Review is the medium through which the actual problems of the practicing lawyer are presented to the student for his interpretation, and conversely, the medium by which the practitioner receives the fresh theoretic analysis of the scholar. The faculty graciously offered much valuable time and effort in launching the New Jersey Law Review.

The library of the school is constantly being enlarged by the gifts of grateful individuals who have themselves benefited by hours spent within its confines, and by the constant expenditures of the Administration in its plan to make the library of New Jersey Law School a more valuable and useful and up-to-date study in the legal community.

Invaluable aids, too, are those experiences gained by the students in engaging in the preferred activities of the Debating Teams, the McClelland Law Club, and the Practice Court, which latter is a part of the curricula. Professor Frederick Grool has, since 1923, guided the Debating teams through competitive matches with the leading Universities and Law Schools.

New Jersey Law School stands today a monumental tribute to the ambitious efforts of its founders, especially Mr. Currier. It marks the fruition of the efforts of those who put in a great deal of work on the faculty of the school. It must be encouraging to those who had a hand in the active growth of the school to see upon it as it stands now, to scrutinize its record, to feel proud of the careers of its trained graduates. A glance into the recorder reveals that among the former students are numbered men who have reached the heights politically, socially, and professionally—men who became United States Senators, Governors, Judges of every court of the State, Prosecutors, College Professors, Mayors, and the leading members of the New Jersey Bar.

In its size New Jersey Law School has grown. In its service it has expanded. In its value it has become inestimable. This year marks the first in the second lap towards its golden anniversary. The next twenty-four years, a short time in the life of a worthy Law School, will bring to a full realization all the hopes held in store for New Jersey Law School. Its history is in the making.