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A Letter From The First Editor in Chief

As one of those who was privileged to be present at the birth of the *Mercer Law Review* in the Fall of 1949, I look forward to reading the account of its fifty-year history portrayed on the following pages.

When my class entered the Mercer Law School in 1947 it was in the process of being revitalized following the effects of World War II. Most of the members of the senior class were returning veterans whose education had been interrupted by their service in the War. That senior class included students who soon became distinguished members of the Bench and Bar, including an Attorney General of the United States.

The law school did not have a law review at that time, but that was soon to change. During my freshman year a new Dean arrived in the person of F. Hodge O'Neal, a dynamic young man who immediately brought new life and excitement into the law school. His vision included the establishment of a law review. At that time student writing opportunities were limited to contributing case notes and comments to the *Georgia Bar Journal* which allocated space to each of the three major law schools in Georgia. When I last saw Dean O'Neal several years ago as we were both serving on the Board of Visitors, he was still as dynamic as ever. The history of the *Mercer Law Review* begins with him and it would be complete if he were still here to share this moment with us.

Once Dean O'Neal obtained approval and funding from the University to begin a law review, he selected the first editorial board, and wisely designated Professor James C. Quarles as Faculty Advisor. A portion of the attic in the old Ryals Law Building was partitioned off for the editorial board to use as offices. Those of us who were privileged to be selected spent many late night hours and weekends in that attic preparing the first issue for publication. We had a lot of fun along with the hard work. It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Undoubtedly, the members of each succeeding editorial board have experienced the same sense of pride and accomplishment felt by the first board.

Now, here we are fifty years later. I appreciate being given the opportunity to reminisce and to contribute my comments. The *Mercer Law Review* has been a resounding success and I am grateful for having had a part in its history.

William P. Tyson, Jr.
Editor-in-Chief
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