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The Underwood Law Library

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To the Underwood Law Library, representing the means by which the pursuit of change through law and reason can most effectively be achieved, the editors respectfully dedicate this issue.

THE UNDERWOOD LAW LIBRARY

CHARLES O. GALVIN*

I am deeply grateful to the editors of *The Journal of Air Law and Commerce* for permitting me to join with them in a special observance of the dedication of the new Underwood Law Library. Every year hundreds of buildings are completed and put to use without the attention that accompanies the new building at this institution. Unlike other institutions, however, an educational institution is not bricks and mortar; it is people and books. People through their intellects create and maintain systems, arrangements and institutions that make up our culture. Books are the depository of this culture. The interaction of books and people is the continuum of the past elaborated through the present. From this interaction the future of the society is determined. The dedication of the new Underwood Law Library is, therefore, an important event in the life of learning for our community. The pride that we all have in this magnificent new structure is certainly pardonable when one considers the great potential for good that its use portends. Legislative reform, judicial reform, model codes, analysis of past decisions, creation of new legal institutions—all will take place within it and the destiny of a nation can and will be profoundly affected.

At the formal dedication we paid special tribute to the pioneer spirit that was responsible for the development of this community and the building of this University. In the library on permanent display is an exhibit of the abstract of title to the land on which the building is situated. Patented from the state on February 18, 1854, to Jefferson Tilley, it came into the hands of the Daniel family and then to the University. The building faces west on Hillcrest Avenue which was the west line of the Jefferson Tilley original survey and was one of the roads leading

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northward from the original city of Dallas. To the west of Hillcrest a few blocks is Preston Road, a famous cattle trail authorized by the Congress of the Republic of Texas in 1839 and named for Captain William G. Preston, a soldier in the army of the Republic. It traversed the area from the capitol at Austin to the Red River. Countless cattle were driven northward to the markets in Kansas over this dusty trail and countless settlers came southward on it to build new cities. That former dusty trail is now a major thoroughfare cutting through attractive suburban residential areas in which some of the descendants of those early settlers presently reside.

East a few blocks from the library is the former right-of-way of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad, the first of the north-south railroad lines completed into Dallas in 1872. In the early days of this University, a line known as the Soumethun branch ran to the east side of the campus. That right-of-way, now known as Central Expressway, carries a major share of the traffic north and south through the city.

The dedication program also described the stewardship of the land by those people who have gone before us. Those many dedicated individuals built this University and its Law School. The Underwood Law Library is the result of a partnership between private citizens with their resources and the Federal Government, and it was fitting that this partnership was represented at the dedication by generous friends of the University and by representatives of all branches of Government. It was fitting that this magnificent building should have been dedicated to legal research for generations to come as part of the national observance of Law Day, U.S.A., 1971. Finally, it was fitting that the chief legal officer of the nation, the Honorable John N. Mitchell, Attorney General of the United States, should have been with us for this purpose.