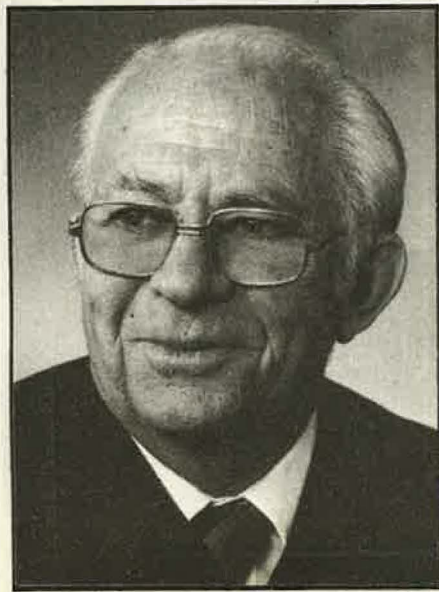


# Alumnews

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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*UW recognizes four outstanding alums during Homecoming 1991*

*Four University of Wyoming alumni will be recognized during 1991 Homecoming festivities Oct. 11-12 in Laramie. Three -- the late Rodney Guthrie, Harold Kester and Ed Witzemberger, will receive Distinguished Alumni Awards.*

*A fourth, Dick Brown, will receive the 1991 Medallion Service Award. Judge Guthrie will be honored posthumously, with his family accepting on his behalf. Shown, from left, are Brown, Guthrie, Kester and Witzemberger.*

# *Guthrie's love of people, profession marked legal career*

When Rodney Guthrie retired from the Wyoming Supreme Court in 1978, he closed the book on a long, distinguished legal career that began in Crook County.

Guthrie, JD '31, died June 8, 1991, in Cheyenne. He is honored posthumously as a 1991 UW Distinguished Alumnus.

A Wyoming native, Guthrie grew up in the Moorcroft area. After graduating from Moorcroft High School in 1926, he moved on to Laramie and the university, where he received his degree from the UW Law School.

Guthrie's legal career included many years of public service. He served as Crook County attorney from his election in 1932 until January 1937. During that time, he lived in Sundance and maintained a private practice.

In 1937, Guthrie moved to Newcastle, where he operated a private practice, Raymond and Guthrie, until 1958. While in that community, he also served as Newcastle city attorney from 1938-53.

Guthrie became a member of the

judicial branch in August 1958, when he was appointed to an unexpired term of District Judge of the Sixth Judicial District. He was elected to that same position in November and served through December 1971.

In January 1972, Guthrie stepped up to the Wyoming Supreme Court as a justice on that body. He was elected to serve a six-year term in November of that year and served until Dec. 31, 1978, when he retired at age 70. He was chief justice from Jan. 22, 1975, until his

retirement.

## *Well-Respected Professional*

Friends and colleagues who nominated Guthrie for the award recall his fair-mindedness and professionalism.

"He is a dedicated jurist, conscientious and fair in exercising his judicial authority," one nominator wrote.

"Although he never left doubt as to who was presiding, he was always courteous and kind to witnesses, litigants and their

(Continued on page 12)

# Guthrie...

(Continued from page 6)

attorneys."

Another nominator said that, "as a trial judge, he was highly respected for his keen intellect and sound judgement in resolving controversies at the trial court level. On the Supreme Court, he has been recognized as a fine legal scholar and a justice whose opinions are well respected, not only in Wyoming but in the nation as well. Common sense and sound judgement have been the hallmark of his judicial work."

An associate added, "Rod Guthrie was exceedingly bright, honest, moral, kind and fair. It was always a pleasure to deal with him."

"There are few citizens of this great state who have contributed more in so many ways than has Rod Guthrie," that same person wrote. "In the field of law, he has excelled in the most respectable and noble manner. With his fellow man, Rod Guthrie has always had a helping hand ready to aid and assist. And he is a true patriot in the most meaningful sense — a person of strong ethical and moral convictions, religious belief and attachment to his beloved state of Wyoming and the University of Wyoming."

"Father's 'forte' wasn't so much his love of, and devotion to, the 'law,' but his skills and extraordinary talents as a 'people' person," daughter Nancy Hinckley says.

Family meant the most to Guthrie.

"Through all of this — his life on an unusual ranch with unusual parents, his career as a lawyer and a judge, memberships, recognitions, etc. — the most important thing in his life was my mother, his children and his two grandsons," Hinckley says.

UW ties run deep in the Guthrie family. Guthrie's wife, the former Mary Belle Pemberton, received her BA in 1932. All three Guthrie children, Mary Bell Guthrie, Nancy Hinckley and William Guthrie, are UW alums. A grandson, Bartley, is currently attending UW.

Guthrie was a member of the Wyoming State Bar. He chaired the Wyoming Civil Jury Pattern Instructions Committee in 1982 and 1983 and co-authored the Wyoming Civil Pattern Jury Instructions.

He was a member of the Episcopal church, Young Men's Literary Club of Cheyenne and the Masonic Order and Shrine. Guthrie received a 50-year pin from the Upton Lodge #28 AF &AM in 1981.