Richard Hayse, '69, and The Honorable John Flannagan, '64, at the Washburn Law Journal 50th Anniversary Banquet

The Honorable D. Keith Anderson, '67, visits with James Abrens, retired Washburn Law professor.

Volume 3: Dave Fromme, '65, business manager, and John Flannagan, '64, notes editor

Volume 6 board of editors: Jerry Levy, '67, notes editor; Clarence Koch, '67, research editor; Philip Egan, '67, business manager; Dale Paulsen, '67, comments editor; Larry Meeker, '67, editor-in-chief; and Keith Anderson, '67, associate editor
OBITER DICTUM
‘REMARKS BY THE WAY’

The first editor-in-chief of the Washburn Law Journal, Lowell F. Hahn, ’61, used this title for his column in Volume 1, stating, “This, it is felt, accurately describes the intended purpose of these notes, presently and in future issues—*to inform our good subscribers of incidental occurrences and information which could not be conveyed in any other manner*—‘remarks by the way.’ Therefore, *Obiter Dictum*.”

The *Obiter Dictum* title continued through Volume 32. Hahn highlighted the beginnings of the Law Journal at its 50th anniversary celebration banquet on April 16, 2011.

Remarks from past editors gave an overview through the decades. Winton M. Hinkle, ’68, discussed how the June 1966 tornado, which destroyed the law school building, impacted the journal. George A. Barton, ’77, talked about the critical importance of good legal writing, and Terry Mann, ’86, provided insight on how good writing is the key factor to a successful practice. Mary Lynch Matthews, ’91, gave an overview of the Journal’s move into the digital age, and Robin K. Carlson, ’04, talked about the special issues produced by the Volume 43 staff related to the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision and the law school centennial.

For more information, photos, and video of the event see: washburnlaw.edu/wlj/50thanniversary.
Dona Morris and The Honorable Joseph Morris, '47, visit with Professor David Pierce, '77, and Theresa Barton.

Washburn University School of Law following the tornado of 1966. The Washburn Law Journal editor’s desk, in the forefront is still in use in the Journal office today.
The Free Society of GNIP-GNOP

The Free Society of GNIP-GNOP had its first meeting in 1947. Its members were nine Washburn Law graduates who were also members of the Kansas Beta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta social fraternity at Washburn. Although all members did not graduate in the same class, due in large measure to their military service during World War II, they and their spouses have gathered annually at various locations throughout the United States since 1947. It was at one of the mid-year meetings that the members decided to establish a cash award to benefit Washburn University School of Law. GNIP-GNOP stands for one of the group’s favorite pastimes. It spells “ping-pong” in reverse.

GNIP-GNOP presented its first award to a law professor who, in their judgment, had been the outstanding law school teacher during that year. They abandoned this practice, however, because the members resided in several states and concluded it was, as a practical matter, impossible for them to know and determine who the outstanding teacher was for the year. Accordingly, they decided to grant two awards each year to student writers on the Washburn Law Journal.

The editor-in-chief and other Law Journal editors select what they consider to be the three best notes and three best comments. These are sent to all GNIP-GNOP members who determine the winner in each category. A substantial cash award goes to each winner.

Erosion by the sands of time has reduced the number of original GNIP-GNOP members from nine to three. In 2009, GNIP-GNOP was expanded to include the following 1977 Washburn University School of Law graduates and former editors of the Washburn Law Journal: George L. Barton, The Honorable Rebecca W. Crotty, Patty Riley, H. Reed Walker, and Professor David Pierce.