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J. Gordon Gose

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IN MEMORIAM—J. GORDON GOSE

The sudden death of J. Gordon Gose on June 18, 1963 brought to an untimely close the distinguished career of a man who had devoted his life to a variety of professional and other public service activities in this state.

Jack Gose, as he was known to all his colleagues and associates, was in the truest sense a westerner and a Washingtonian. Born in Walla Walla, Washington, in December, 1903, member of a distinguished pioneer family of that area, he attended grade school, high school and college in his home city. His election to Phi Beta Kappa as a student at Whitman College, from which he graduated in 1926, was an early recognition of the qualities of studiousness and scholarship for which he was well known throughout his life. He enrolled in the School of Law at the University of Washington and upon graduation from that school was not only elected to the Order of the Coif but was designated as honor graduate of the class of 1929.

Following admission to the bar of his native state he entered the practice of law in Seattle. In the seventeen years which followed Jack Gose established an enviable reputation throughout the state as legal counsellor and advocate. He was an active participant in the affairs of the bar associations of his city and state, contributed to the enjoyment of many occasions as a droll and entertaining toastmaster or speaker, and gained the friendship as well as the deep respect of a host of acquaintances, clients, fellow lawyers and judges.

In 1946, embarking upon a second career in his chosen profession, he accepted an invitation to join the faculty of the law school of which he was a graduate. As a teacher he devoted his loyal and energetic services to the law school, to the University and to the state. He was a most effective instructor, who illustrated the basic principles, as well as the foibles, of the courses he taught with apt, and often humorous, illustrations. As a faculty member he continued his contributions to the legal profession of his state, devoting himself to research in his chosen fields of business associations and probate practice, acting as consultant to lawyers and judges who sought his advice, writing and publishing numerous articles in the Washington Law Review and participating in many legal institutes and seminars for the members of the bar.

In addition to such strictly professional activities he served on many law school and university committees and from 1958 until the time

of his death he was the University's faculty athletic representative. In the latter capacity he was a primary contributor to the organization of the Athletic Association of Western Universities. At the same time he was serving as a member of the Board of Overseers of his alma mater, Whitman College. Notwithstanding the variety of his activities he maintained an active interest in golf, fishing and hunting and his office door was always open to students of the law school as well as those engaged in University's athletic program, who sought him out for counsel on personal as well as academic problems.

Although he was widely known outside the State of Washington he spent only one year of his professional career away from the Pacific Northwest. This was while serving as visiting professor of law at the University of California, Berkeley. His ties with, and loyalty to, his native state brought him back to his post at the University of Washington at the end of this short period.

Always endowed with scholarly curiosity and acumen, Jack Gose was not enticed by learning solely for the sake of learning. The impact of legal principles was of great concern to him and he was unwilling to accept any rule which could not be supported in the context of modern conditions and practices. Still, he was not disposed to advocate, or to accept, change merely for the sake of change. But he would espouse change, whether of substantive rule or procedure, when it could be adequately shown that need for revision existed and that it would provide a demonstrably better solution for the problem at hand.

Above all, he possessed an unusual faculty for sage settlement of controversy. By his colleagues and associates in the law school, as well as in other professional and athletic circles, Jack Gose will be long remembered for his insistence upon the basic facts of an issue, for his ability to reduce complex problems to simple terms and for his adroitness in leading, usually with anecdote or a touch of homely humor appropriate to the group and the occasion, clashing interests and divergent viewpoints amicably to the solution of a problem.

Through his death, at the time of his optimum effectiveness, the students and faculty of the law school, the members of the bench and bar and the several institutions with which he was so actively associated have suffered the loss of an able scholar, a devoted teacher, and a wise and kindly friend and counsellor.

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