## Young lawyers celebrate 64 years of service

The first record of the ISBA Young Lawyers Section (YLS) is in the proceedings of the 36th annual meeting of the Indiana State Bar Association held at South Bend, Ind., on July 7-8, 1932, when John G. Biel of Terre Haute addressed the assembly, encouraging an organization within the bar for junior members. Sometime during the late summer or early fall of 1932 a Committee on Young Lawyers' Organization was appointed. By year's end a report of that committee was adopted and its recommendation approved, establishing a Young Lawyers Committee.

It was at the mid-winter meeting of the association held in Indianapolis on Jan. 14, 1939, that a resolution was presented by the Young Lawyers Committee to amend the bylaws of the ISBA to provide for a new section of the association to be known as the Young Lawyers Section. Its membership would consist of all members of the ISBA who were not over the age of 35 years. The section was to have as its objectives the furtherance of a close relationship among the younger members of the bar, assistance to law students and newly admitted members of the bar, improvement of the economic status of the legal profession, and such other functions, duties and projects as the president or Board of Managers of the State Bar should direct. At that meeting the Young Lawyers Section became a reality, and Philip E. Byron Jr., Peru, was appointed the first chair of the section.

In the 1940s the YLS began its practice of congratulating new lawyers at a luncheon following their admission to the bar of Indiana. This is one of the activities of the section which has continued without interruption to the present time (although now a reception for

new admittees, their families and guests takes place rather than a luncheon).

The next few years were war years, and as a result challenges surfaced for the section as well as unique opportunities for service to members. In spite of the war the practice of hosting luncheons in honor of new admittees continued. Some regional meetings were also conducted during this period. In 1942-43 the section organized a group to furnish legal aid for service personnel at the Naval Armory and assisted both the Army and Navy in recruiting trained men for officer personnel, although there was little demand for lawyers, as such, in the armed services at that time.

The years '44-'45 and '45-'46 were memorable ones for the section as it was honored as the outstanding Young Lawyers Section in the United States two years running with the Award of Merit of the Junior Bar Conference of the American Bar Association.

In 1957 the YLS council sought approval of the ISBA Board of Managers to conduct a statewide Law Day celebration. The section chair attended a board meeting to propose the project. When he explained the idea of Law Day, the members of the Board of Managers denied the proposal, stating it was unethical and would constitute advertising. About a week later, the American Bar Association urged each state to sponsor Law Day programs. The Young Lawyers Section received a call from the Board of Managers, which authorized the section to proceed with its plans for a statewide Law Day celebration.

The '60s raised the social conscience of YLS as it began to reach out to communities, broadening the scope of its programs at local high schools and establishing career days at colleges. By the '70s the sec-

tion's aim to support new lawyers resulted in sponsorship of a practice skills or bridge-the-gap seminar, a version of which continues today. The two-day seminar provides a three-volume manual of forms and other helpful guidance for a variety of practice areas.

Three different times in the '70s and '80s the ISBA/YLS was the recipient of the Award of Achievement from the ABA Young Lawyers Division. Programs providing disaster relief to victims of the Richmond fire and the Fort Wayne flood were spearheaded by YLS members. Disaster relief continues today whenever the section is called upon by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Also during the '70s the YLS sponsored a statewide program during the first week in May called "Older Hoosiers Law Week," for which the section received a proclamation from the state of Indiana.

The YLS pursued many and varied goals during the 1980s, such as Lawyers Assistance Program, Statewide Softball Tournament, Job Interview Program, Lawyers Res, YLS Network newsletter, Elder Law Pro Bono Referral Project and Regional Meetings.

The movement for mandatory continuing legal education for all Indiana lawyers was spearheaded by the section in the mid 1980s. Also, under the leadership of '87-'88 YLS Chair E. Spencer Walton Jr., of South Bend, the section initiated a pilot project to encourage the use of alternative dispute resolution in Indiana. A more recent effort of the YLS is the Teen Law Project, which resulted in publication of a

resulted in publication of a booklet entitled *Legal Stuff* (*You should know!*) for distribution to high school seniors throughout the state. చే

ISBA Staff Liaisons to the Young Lawyers Section, 1979-1990 and 1990present, respectively