O Common Law,
Grass Roots
&
Dedication of
'Lord's Land'







n the year 1992, approximately 400 years after the Magna was written and its impact reverberated around the known world, adherents of its lofty precepts gathered at 20 East Fleet Street, Desert Springs, near Beaver Dam and Littlefield, Arizona, to celebrate an independent corner stone laying and dedication of the "Lord's land for Hope Sanctuary and School of Barristry."

he event, attended by some 50 residents and a multitude of guests, started with a reception held in the Desert Springs Township Hall, and migrated to the manicured lawn in front of a replica of the Temple Bar of London, England.

hough the mainstay of the School of Barristry is to learn how to apply the 10 Commandments and a "dealing with others as we would wish them to do to us" philosophy, it also employes the concept of teaching that there is power within the law.

The several speakers, including Penn Smith of Washington City, Utah, reiterated that the group is not comprised of "a church," but rather a group of Christians who believe in being judged by "juries of 12 free men," and in ownership of private property.

Credit goes to Richard D. Cooper, father of the group, who talked about his hope for the success of the School of Barristry, its libraries full of wisdom, and who designed and built the replica and plans to build the stone school brick by brick in the weeks ahead. His son, Jerry C. Cooper, spoke of Hope Sanctuary being a "point of rally." Steth Stinson said "common law," a 12-man jury and ownership of private property were important cornerstone concepts for the group. Val Cram called upon the people to live under "the will of the Lord." Penn Smith, who received a ceremonial sword representing his pro tem position to care for the flock. He will serve in that position until Richard Cooper officially appoints a presiding leader, the group was told.

hough Townships are not recognized in the state of Arizona, the elder Cooper said his Temple Bar Square was to be a "world center to all who want to study into the concepts found within Christian townships of all English-speaking peoples," and hoped that hundreds would take advantage of offerings of Hope Sanctuary and the School of Barristry.

Special music was adapted and sung by guitarist Gary Hall especially for the occassion.

Fittingly, there is an open faced stone altar "in the Garden" of the courtyard, where Andrew and Mabel Mitchell stand. The stones were handpicked from the surrounding area.

Contract Law & 'The Will of God'







