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Letter to the Editor

Carle Whitehead

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Personals

Dale S. Deane, clerk of the West Side Court for almost twenty years, has resigned, and Horace Montague, assistant cashier and book-keeper in the District Court clerk's office has been appointed to succeed him. Matt Mesch, deputy clerk of the District Court succeeds Mr. Montague.

Charles J. Beise, formerly of Durango, and more recently assistant regional counsel of the Bureau of Reclamation, in Salt Lake City, is now practicing law with Fairfield and Woods in the First National Bank Bldg., Denver.

Letter to the Editor

September 5, 1945.

Editor of Dicta:

I agree with much that Shippen Lewis says in his "Practicing Law by Telephone" (August Dicta) but I cannot join in his condemnation of the secretary who asks, "Who is it, please?" when I call an office.

I go to a man's home, knock and the door is opened. As a matter of courtesy I introduce myself before I expect any information.

When I walk into a man's office I do the same.

What is the difference whether I knock at the door of his home, walk into his office; or ring his phone? Courtesy demands that I introduce myself in any event.

There is another, and very practical, reason. There is someone I wish to reach or from whom I am expecting a call. I leave the office and leave with the secretary the message I wish to get to him. When he calls and gives his name the secretary at once gives him the message and further phoning is avoided and much time is frequently saved. Too commonly, however, the party calls and, without introduction, asks if I am in. On being informed that I am not, he hangs up without indicating who he is or giving the secretary a chance to find out. Result—I fail to get my message to him and he has to call again in hopes of finding me in. Even if I am in, the secretary can frequently give the desired information without bothering me.

I think the courteous and efficient thing to do is to give your name when you phone or, at least, readily and pleasantly respond with it when the secretary asks it.

—CARLE WHITEHEAD.