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Dictaphun

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DICTA

Vol. XXI

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No. 8

Dictaphun

We assert our utter lack of responsibility for the reappearance, after the lapse of exactly nine years, of DICTAPHUN.¹ It died in August, 1935, unshriven, after living an extremely varied and usually uninteresting life. At least it was not funny, as any who have a taste for verification may determine by examination of Volumes 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of Dicta.² The blame for the opening of the grave must be laid at the door of Milton J. (Ghoul) Keegan.³ Ghoul called us (he was somewhat delayed by the unreasonable attitude of the telephone company with regard to some unpaid tolls⁴ alleged to be due from us to it), yes, Ghoul called us and said, "I have been elected president of the Denver Bar Association." An awkward pause followed, for we have always liked Ghoul⁵ and naturally hated to see him get into that kind of trouble. He recovered and said, "Why don't you take on the job of editing DICTAPHUN again?" He added many deserved words of praise, encomium and the like, including flattering references to our ancestry, and wound up by offering to support the Democratic ticket. We may need that vote, and DICTAPHUN will appear monthly until and including November and perhaps will extend through the fifth term.

We announce at the outset of this second effort that we do not like the name of this department and had nothing to do with its christening, except to protest. It will not be changed, however, as we are worshippers of tradition and of all precedents in our favor. We believe it proper, at this point, to quote from our first effort (Dicta, December, 1930). We did not know the word "corny" at that time, and we wouldn't have known we were corny if we had. We still are, but to quote what we said we would quote:

¹DICTAPHUN, when mentioning itself, always uses caps. Know any other publication that does that?

²Dicta, when mentioned by us, gets the lower case. Maybe it deserves caps, but we never read anything in it but DICTAPHUN so we don't know.

³President (currently) of the Denver Bar Association.

⁴Tolls, not Wolcotts.

⁵We mean Milton, not Albert, although we like him, too. He *used* to be Public Administrator. We hope this is never said of us.

"UNCHRISTENED.

"The editors assume no responsibility for the opinions in articles appearing in Dicta, except to the extent of expressing the view, by the fact of publication, that the subject treated is one which merits attention.

"Furthermore, the editors are execution proof.

"Unsolicited manuscripts not accompanied by stamped and addressed envelopes will be used without giving credit, and the editors will not enter into correspondence concerning them. Payment for articles written by those who stoop to professionalism will be made upon acceptance, without reference to the time of publication * * *."

Many other sparkling quips of the same general calibre followed, and the editors appended a note reading:

"With this issue Dicta departs slightly from its hitherto staid deportment and inaugurates a section dealing with certain bar matters in a less serious style than has heretofore been prevalent in its offerings. A name is needed for this section. The editorial staff, therefore, will award a huge prize to that person who best names it * * *."

We learn from Dicta for January, 1931, that the editorial staff selected the name DICTAPHUN, and we denounced the name then and therein as the most likely to be elected the worst pun of 1931. Who got the huge prize is still a military secret. It was the worst pun of 1931 and has taken the honor five times since.

For some sixty numbers of Dicta we endured the insults of the editors-in-chief, and then, rather than kill the editors-in-chief, we killed DICTAPHUN. As we look back it would have been better to have done both. The present editor-in-chief may find something to consider in this situation. Certainly he should bear in mind that there is no such thing as an indispensable editor-in-chief, although we know he would respond to his country's call and be a candidate—not run—for reelection if he could get control of the convention and become a draftee.

Our hair has become grey but the policy of DICTAPHUN remains as it has always been, even when dead. We welcome contributions from both lawyers and judges. We will give credit to those who submit printable items which get into print, unless they are so good we want the credit exclusively. All who read this are funny and many will be willing to admit it. All of you, in studious research, encounter humorous matter. This is particularly true of those who read extensively in the Colorado reports. Let us have these things, promptly and regularly. Keep 'em funny. And send them, carriage prepaid, to DICTAPHUN, 515 Midland Savings Bldg., Denver 2, Colorado.