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Troubleshooter

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Troubleshooter

The Story of a Northwoods Prosecutor, by Robert Travers, Viking Press, \$2.75.

Troubleshooter is a book that "Big City" lawyers will read with wishful longings; that is, all "Big City" lawyers except those residing in Chicago—that city with an "utter lack of personality"—because they probably will be somewhat annoyed in their complacency by Mr. Travers' "profound pity for people who had to live in any large city"—especially Chicago.

Troubleshooter is a book that the "country" lawyer will read with earthy enjoyment. He will see in it some of the people with whom he comes in contact every day. He'll recognize pro-types of some of his clients, and see resemblances to some of the persons that he talked with when he was in the district attorney's office (for what country lawyer hasn't been a district attorney or an assistant district attorney some time in his career?). The country lawyer will understand Travers' longing to return to "the hills and woods, the lakes and streams and swamps; the rocks and moss and matted leaves, the doze and murmur and measured pulse of my small town."

So Travers' story is one that will appeal to all lawyers—incidentally to all who like a tale well told—for it is a story of a small town lawyer, who likes nothing better than to be a small town lawyer. It concerns itself mainly with his experiences in the district attorney's office, first as an assistant and then as the head man. In this book is paraded the varied stories of the culprits who came before the bar of justice.

These stories are, for the greater part, well and vigorously told, and there are incidents which reveal some of the mistakes of any trial lawyer and point out pitfalls which could have been avoided.

If it were not for the fact that the word "human" has been grossly overused, we could use that adjective to describe this book; for it is a collection of human experiences, especially those of the "humorous, mirthful and passionate Finns" who reside in the upper peninsula of Michigan. In any event, for a pleasant evening of vicarious enjoyment among the people of the upper peninsula, we recommend *Troubleshooter*.

Pre-Trial System of Nineteenth Century Described in Letter

Essex County, Massachusetts, lawyers in the early part of the nineteenth century were using a pre-trial system of their own, as is shown in correspondence of the noted Massachusetts jurist, Samuel Putnam.

In a letter of Judge Putnam's, reprinted from an historical society pamphlet in the MASSACHUSETTS LAW QUARTERLY, the pre-trial procedure of those days was described as follows:

"The habit of that Bar was to disclose freely to the adverse counsel the points which were to be controverted or admitted, *whereby much expense to clients was saved*. What out of court was agreed to be admitted was always admitted on trial, and so much expense and trouble of witnesses was prevented. No traps were set. But the debatable ground was maintained with as much earnestness as was consistent with good breeding. * * * Those agreements were uniformly verbal, but always performed."

Denver Bar to Elect New Officers

Officers of the Denver Bar Association for the coming year will be elected at the next meeting of the association on May 3rd. Designations of the nominating committee are the following:

For President.....	Thomas Keely
For First Vice-President.....	Jean Breitenstein
For Second Vice-President.....	John Gorsuch
For Trustees	{Golding Fairfield
	{Edwin J. Wittelshofer

LOST, STRAYED OR STOLEN

Volume 16 of the Colorado Appeals Reports is unaccountably missing from the library of Division I of the District Court, and no one seems to know just how long it has been gone. So please look for it in your library. Judge Steele would like to have it back and promises that no questions will be asked.