

January 1942

A Glimpse of the Old Time Bar

Carle Whitehead

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.du.edu/dlr>

Recommended Citation

Carle Whitehead, A Glimpse of the Old Time Bar, 19 Dicta 147 (1942).

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Denver Law Review at Digital Commons @ DU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Denver Law Review by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ DU. For more information, please contact jennifer.cox@du.edu, dig-commons@du.edu.

A Glimpse of the Old Time Bar

A Glimpse of the Old Time Bar

BY CARLE WHITEHEAD*

PERIOD: About the turn of the century.

PLACE: That which is now "Dinty Moore's." Then serving "free lunch"—"free" on condition precedent of the purchase of a glass of beverage then not limited to 3.2%.

TIME: Noon recess during the trial of W. W. Anderson for taking pot shots at the proprietors of one of Denver's leading (as to which direction—quaere) newspapers.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE: The aforesaid Anderson, long, lean, southern and garbed in his perennial Prince Albert coat and silk hat; his attorney, John G. Taylor, also long, and southern, not so lean but rugged, not to say ugly, and a crowd appropriate to the time and place.

Taylor, having absorbed several of the aforesaid "conditions precedent," raps for quiet and, striking a dignified attitude, solemnly proclaims: "In the case of the People of the State of Colorado v. W. W. Anderson, the defendant is now represented at the bar in person and by attorney."

After this bit of horseplay the gathering reconvened in the court which was located in the one story shack then standing to the south of the jail.

The defendant's pot shots having taken effect upon both of said proprietors, and their clothing being stained by some fluid the nature of which was unknown to the court and jury without the aid of an expert, the D. A. produced, for the purpose, a quite young physician, to whom we will refer as Doctor Jonathan Jenkins.

The doctor's name was called and, probably in an effort to conceal his stage fright as he proceeded to the stand, he assumed an attitude obviously intended to indicate a feeling of self importance. His heavily horn-rimmed spectacles (later quite common but then a rare sight) attracted much attention and increased the impression of egotism.

The D. A. asked his name. The witness straightened, threw his shoulders back, his chest out and his chin up and answered, "Doctor Jonathan Jenkins."

He proceeded in the most approved (or disapproved—according to point of view) expert manner to identify as blood the unknown substance in the clothing. The D. A.'s long and tedious examination

*Of the Denver bar.

concluded with a hypothetical question, to which the doctor gave a five-page hypertechnical answer. Thereupon, the D. A. announced, "That is all, Doctor Jonathan Jenkins. Mr. Taylor, you may cross examine."

Taylor, without rising from his chair, pointed a long, bony finger at the doctor and snarled, "What - did - you - say - your - name - is?"

Again, the shoulders back, chest out, chin up and the answer "*Doctor Jonathan Jenkins.*"

Taylor's voice fairly oozed scorn. "Stand aside, *Doctor Jonathan Jenkins*—no cross examination." The doctor, with his spectacles, left the stand.

The trial lasted a week or ten days. A host of witnesses testified. When Taylor came to address the jury, he had not a single note. From memory he reviewed the testimony of the witnesses one after another and then, in that voice of scorn, he burst forth—"And now, gentlemen of the jury, we come to the testimony of that spectacled, spectacular ass, *Doctor Jonathan Jenkins.*"

He paused, grimacing with features far from handsome even in repose, and, without another word, thanked the jury and sat down.

Anderson was acquitted.

Winter Institute Program Is Successful

With the holding of the institute at Monte Vista on May 23, 1942, the winter program of the institute committee was formally concluded. The institutes this year reached an all-time peak in attendance and enthusiasm and were held in every portion of the state. It is estimated that two-thirds of the lawyers in the state attended at least one of the institutes during the season. The largest institute of any kind was held on March 9, 1942, at Pueblo when a portion of the institute was made available to the public. It is estimated that more than 1,250 people attended the Pueblo meeting, which featured talks upon American government.

Institutes were held at Boulder, Glenwood Springs, Greeley, Denver, Monte Vista, Pueblo and Colorado Springs. The western part of the state plans to hold institutes during the summer months but the places and dates have not been definitely fixed at this time. The institute program was carried on under the direction of Edward L. Wood of Denver, chairman of the committee on legal institutes.