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The Newspaper's Duty in Law Enforcement

Dicta Editorial Board

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the Reports and the current issues of DICTA have been forwarded to members.

The Secretary is most desirous of completing and maintaining an accurate roster of all members, and will appreciate advice as to any errors in the list found at page 312 of the Reports.

Members are urged to preserve their Bar Reports. This volume contains valuable information relating to the reorganization of the bar and other matter which may not be reprinted in future editions. A complete index of State Bar Association Reports is being compiled and will be ready for publication in the near future. Accordingly, the value and usefulness of all Colorado Bar Reports, and also those of other states, will be considerably increased.

***THE NEWSPAPER'S DUTY IN LAW ENFORCEMENT**

The newspaper's duty is not defined by law, except as restrictions on license are prescribed, such as libel and contempt of court. The responsibility is an implied one and purely moral. Asking a place in the community for profit and for the support of its workers, the newspaper assumes the obligation of keeping the public informed in all matters of general interest.

Newspapers like to present information to their readers before it is widely known, the "news while it is news," to state the matter tritely. The almost maniacal stress placed on "scoops" by metropolitan newspapers, however, sometimes thwarts the objectives which were sought when guarantees of free press were written into the Constitution.

It is the duty of every citizen to aid observance of the law and the administration of justice. The obligation rests upon the newspaper as well as upon the citizen in other callings. There are limitations to the information, and the time of presentation, which newspapers may rightly give their readers.

The opening statement of the deputy district attorney in a murder trial now proceeding in district court in Sterling doubtless came to almost all Advocate readers as new and surprising. Yet virtually all of the expected evidence was known

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to Advocate news staff members. It was sealed in confidence, both as to the written and spoken word, for the reason that the development of "a case" on circumstantial evidence is ordinarily a difficult task, even though the final showing may be as conclusive as any eye-witness evidence. To disclose the findings of investigators would be to help prepare the defense of a person possibly guilty of a crime against all society. Innumerable crimes go unpunished; few guiltless persons lack adequate defense.

The newspaper "story" intended for the information of the public, if premature, can serve to warn the enemies of society, to help them cover their trail and perhaps to make their escape from punishment. To lay the people's case down, as cards upon the table, may be to permit the perfection of alibis and fabrication of evidence.

The Advocate feels its obligation to be enterprising and aggressive in the interest of its readers. It believes, however, that its first duty is to further the ends of justice, which, after all, is every man's sacred right and should be every man's concern. Not infrequently information must remain locked in the mind of a conscientious newspaper worker for several years before it can properly be disclosed.

The Advocate believes in the trial of criminal causes by the courts, and not in columns of the newspapers—in deliberate justice, and not in public passion.

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE COLORADO BAR ASSOCIATION

A Statement from the Treasurer, EDWARD C. KING

Since the reorganization of The Colorado Bar Association at the September meeting a number of questions have arisen with respect to dues and membership.

I believe that the following are correct statements of the rules which should be followed under the circumstances mentioned in each, and that they are in accordance with the understanding reached by the Board of Governors at its first meeting in Colorado Springs.

1. A lawyer may not be or become a member of an affiliated association without being or becoming a member of the state association.

Membership in the first automatically makes him a member of the second and liable to dues for both.

2. No lawyer who resides in a community in which there is an affiliated association may be or become a member of the state association, except as a result of his membership in the affiliated association; provided, however, that anyone who was a member of the state association prior to the September meeting at Colorado Springs and who has paid his state association dues to June 30, 1939, will continue to be a member until such later date, regardless of his place of residence or his connection with an affiliated association.

3. If any member of an affiliated association shall have paid, or shall hereafter pay, dues to the state association at the old rate (\$6 per year) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1939, or for any prior fiscal year, he shall not be entitled to a refund, but the affiliated association of which he is a member shall be entitled to a credit of \$3 for any such dues paid for the year ending June 30, 1939.

4. Each affiliated association should certify to the Secretary of the state association a complete list of its members, and should report any additional members within thirty days after their election.

5. The Treasurer of the state association should, as soon as practicable after the receipt of this list by the Secretary, bill the affiliated association for the sum of \$3 for each member liable to the payment of dues, using as a basis for such billing the list certified to the state association, and the affiliated association shall be responsible for the dues of its members and shall remit the same to the Treasurer of the state association.

6. If a lawyer is a member of two affiliated associations, he should make an election as to which of the two shall pay his dues to the state association, and should notify the Treasurer of the state association of his election.

7. If a lawyer resides in a community in which there is no affiliated association and is an active member of the state association, his dues shall be \$6 for each fiscal year.

HEARD AROUND THE BAR

Friendliness and hospitality take first rank with members of the Weld County Bar Association. The old-time spirit of camaraderie is not lost in this group.

After dinner speaker par excellence, Art Henry, entertained in his usual brilliant and delightful fashion. His text was built around the lawyer as characterized by the movies; or to paraphrase his subject: "A Three-reeler in One Unwinding."

The meeting was made more delightful and cheerful to