

January 1934

Beginning of the Denver Bar Association

F. T. Johnson

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

Recommended Citation

F. T. Johnson, Beginning of the Denver Bar Association, 12 Dicta 19 (1934).

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.

same time be of invaluable service to our people; yet it will not put the government into competition with the old line annuity companies; as a matter of experience it is found that government annuities increase the business of old line companies because of the tendency to make people more annuity-conscious.

It is impossible for the government to risk any losses on the annuity plan as the funds received from annuitants can be kept working constantly in government securities; the annuities will be paid on the same mortality tabulations as are used now by the old line companies, but the cost to annuitants will naturally be lower because the government will be able to eliminate many of the expenses now carried by private companies.

BEGINNING OF THE DENVER BAR ASSOCIATION

(From Recollection of F. T. Johnson, District Judge, 1895 to 1907. Submitted by Hon. S. W. Johnson, Judge of the First Judicial District.)

The Denver Bar Association was organized by Robert Bonyngne, Robert H. Latta and myself in the old Symes Building in 1887. We met and drafted a set of by-laws and circulated a petition among the lawyers for the signatures of those desiring to join. A large number were secured as members and meetings were held off and on at various places, at which law questions and subjects of interest to the profession were discussed. This organization, simple in plan and loosely held together, continued until the incorporated Bar Association took its place. What records of these meetings may remain I do not know, and of the list of early membership only a few survive. Robert Bonyngne became Congressman and after serving his term removed to New York City. Robert H. Latta, now deceased, was long known to the profession as publisher of *The Colorado Graphic*. His activity and acquaintanceship with the lawyers had much to do with the success of the early organization.

I believe that in the period mentioned there were about 100 lawyers in Denver. Perhaps not more than fifty constituted the leaders of the profession, while the rest were obliged

to earn a living by practicing law in less important ways. This less fortunate group was made up of the young lawyers and beginners, of which I was a part. We did not have access to encyclopedias and modern law treatises and index systems, and very few had access to law libraries, but reliance was had on reasoning, analysis and individual tact in handling a case. Typewriters were not available to many, and we wrote out in longhand most of our court pleadings. Pomp and ceremony was not known in court procedure, but good oratory was popular with litigants, juries and audiences.

The environments of the young struggling lawyers led them to seek closer union with their fellows, and this brought about the organization of the Bar Association which now forms a large and important part of the life of the legal profession.

SAY IT ISN'T SO

Berton T. Gobble, Esq., of the bar of the Supreme Court of Colorado (which will be new deal commencing in January next) deploras the notion that he seeks publicity but feels the call of duty requires him to announce that he is "in no way connected with the firm of Gettum, Gobble and Takum, Inc., Attorneys and Counsellors at Law, whose advertisement appears on page 580 of the September, 1934, *American Bar Association Journal*." His postscript query, "What are your advertising rates?" we refer with scorn to the business office, headed, we are informed and perhaps believe, by the M. Grossman and the Mlle. Edison.

What with the farmer getting paid for the hogs, corn and cotton he didn't raise, why not solicit membership in a lawyer's club for the purpose of making claim to Uncle Sam for the number of lawsuits we didn't take?

IT'S MUTINY

Sidney S. Jacobs, Esq., local proctor in admiralty, flagged us down to give his deposition that in 4 F. (2d) 358 the Minnesota United States District Court determined this knotty problem by passing the buck: "Whether 'Ry-Krisp' is bakery goods or a cooked cereal food preparation is a question for the Interstate Commerce Commission."