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The Posthumous Song of a Calf

*Note—The Denver Bar has developed a Wit In Walker
and now produces a Poet In Perry.*

The Posthumous Song of a Calf

BY HAROLD W. PERRY, ESQ., OF THE DENVER BAR

When I was born my noble dam a chattel mortgage wore,
Acknowledged and recorded as per statutory lore,
And 'ere the stork which brought me had begun its homeward flight
The mortgagee hired counsel to protect his legal right.

The lawyer said a mortgage was not known at common law,
Was a creature of the statutes and must never have a flaw,
For those robbers and highwaymen, called Third Persons at the bar,
Would otherwise acquire a lien the Courts would hold was prior.

This mortgage covered offspring, which apparently meant me,
And thereupon the lawyer gravely warned the mortgagee
Re: latent eccentricities of mine that should be curbed
In order that the mortgage lien might never be disturbed.

I swiftly passed from calfhood and in time became a steer
And after three brief years of life my late demise drew near;
But through those years that lawyer ne'er did let his client pause
Always to keep that mortgage in compliance with the laws.

But when a packer bought me and had hung me up to cool,
Third Persons, please see supra, asked a certain Judge to rule
An action in replevin was quite timely and indeed
Under all circumstances was a writ then much in need.

But while the Judge was hearing counsel in this legal strife,
My choicest loin was purchased by the learned Judge's wife;
And when the meat of the debate he went home to digest,
He did the job more thoroughly than even he had guessed.

He brought home counsel with him and the litigants as well,
That at his board the cares of suit he might somewhat dispel;
They dined upon said choicest loin, not knowing it was mine,
And after they had gorged themselves, all said that it was fine.

Next day Judge had the sheriff the replevin execute,
But the sheriff couldn't do it 'cause the most of me was moot;
He served the order on the Judge who'd thereto signed his name,
Demanding back my choicest loin, or double bond for same.

Then Court judicial notice took that quite as if by chance
An equitable adjustment had been had by litigants;
And to the learned counsel the Judge's words were these:
"This case is settled out of Court; see intra for your fees."