

From Our Readers

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Colorado Lawyer, January 2018

In reading the *Colorado Lawyer*, I remember that in the “old days” there would occasionally be an article from an elder attorney with practical advice for the newly admitted attorneys. I was fortunate to receive advice from a prominent litigator—David Rozner. He took me to lunch at a then-famous restaurant, Shaners on 16th Street, where many lawyers would have lunch at the same table. I can't remember everything he taught me; however, two nuggets of advice stuck with me: First, “If you orally agree to grant your opponent an extension of time to file an Answer to a Pleading, never go back on your word because the Denver bar is a small organization and word will soon spread that your word cannot be trusted.” Second, “Never have your secretary answer your phone and ask, ‘Who may I tell him/her is calling?’ because this makes the caller feel that if he/she is not important enough, your secretary will not put the call through.”

Reading through your recent issue just brought these old memories back.

Stanton D. Rosenbaum

Ryley Carlock & Applewhite

Historical Perspectives, February 2018

Frank:

I always look forward to your “Historical Perspectives” column. I particularly enjoyed your latest column on the Keady trial in Leadville. I believe I can add something to the topic of why the judge would attack John Campion. I am a Western mining historian on the side (when not practicing law to support my “history habit”). I have researched the life and career of Mr. Campion on a few occasions. Every

Halloween, I join a group of historians in History Colorado's “Cemetery Crawl,” which alternates among Fairmount, Riverside, and Mt. Olivet cemeteries. At Mt. Olivet, which will be our location this Halloween, I portray John Campion while standing in front of his impressive mausoleum. Also, I have written one book, a biography of Colorado mining millionaire Thomas F. Walsh, a friend and contemporary of Campion. While Mr. Campion deserves a great deal of credit for his philanthropy, his record in labor matters is not so good. He is often vilified by labor historians for his role in the violent 1896–97 Leadville miners' strike. Campion, perhaps the wealthiest mine owner in the town, stubbornly opposed the labor union demands of an eight-hour day and \$3/day pay for miners. The state militia finally arrived to restore order, after much damage was done.

In 1901, only four years later, it is not hard to believe there were still “Campion haters” in the town, even among the judiciary. I do not know anything about Judge Owers, but organized labor did sometimes land sympathizers on the bench in mining towns.

In my graveyard presentation, I try to show John Campion as someone who worked very hard, with many long and arduous days, achieved his wealth, and expected no less effort from his workers. That he then used that wealth in many positive ways cannot be denied. I chose Walsh for the topic of my book because he managed to have good labor relations with no strikes, in the same era as Campion, yet he also earned a fortune from his mining ventures and engaged in philanthropy.

I hope this gives a little “perspective to the Perspectives.” I look forward to more columns.

John C. Stewart

Attorney at Law

Hi Frank.

Just read—with great delight—your most recent article, “Calamity in Leadville.” I thought of two things as I finished it: First, I hope you'll put a book together of your articles. I promise to purchase one—and when I finish reading it I'll put it next to my friend Dave Erickson's book on the history of lawyers and judges in Colorado. Second, as your article slid me back a hundred plus years, I thought of how much fun it would be to practice law back in those days.

I will never forget a night, now at least 40 years ago, when I represented a partnership seeking a rural zoning change in Douglas County. The hearing was in the original Douglas County government building in Castle Rock (before it was torched). I made the mistake of going there in tie and coat. I looked around as I started my presentation, and the only thing missing among the folks attending were their six-guns. It was as though I had been transported back a hundred years. I don't remember the outcome (my guess is they would happily have thrown me out), but my longtime friend Dave Archer, the Douglas County surveyor, rescued me. Dave was local and believable, and he always wore full attire of the Old West. I've often wondered what a zoning hearing there would be like today—probably no different from Littleton or Greenwood Village. But maybe some parts of Western Colorado have retained the flavor of the Old West. I'd hate for us to lose that wonderful history.

Jeff Bowen

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Editor's Note: A compilation of Gibbard's “Historical Perspectives” articles, entitled *Steam, Steel and Statutes*, was published by Colorado Bar Association CLE in 2010.