

Tues. Feb. 24, 1931.

"AMOS AND ANDY"
by
Correll & Gosden
No. 912.

At last February the 24th has arrived and in the Supreme Court of New York Andy is about to go through an experience that he will probably never forget. The case was set before the Judge for 10 A. M. The time is now 10 minutes after 10. Andy was instructed to meet his lawyer at the entrance to the Court room at 9-45 but failed to appear. At 10 o'clock sharp the judge took his seat on the bench and instructed the clerk to swear in the jury which was done. Andy's lawyer, at 5 minutes after 10, was successful in getting the judge to grant a 10 minute recess. Lawyer Collins is standing just outside of the courtroom with his watch in his hand waiting for Andy to arrive. The Court room is crowded with spectators. Madam Queen, her sister, and lawyer are seated near the judge ready for action and as the scene opens we find Amos and Andy approaching the entrance to the court room as they see their lawyer waiting. Here they are:--

Amos---Dere's Mr. Collins now---COME ON! Come on!

Andy---Boy, I hope we ain't too late.

Amos---Hello Mr. Collins.

Collins--Well, where in the world have you boys been?

Andy---(out of breath) Yo' see, Mr. Collins, we had de taxicab an' de thing broke down, an' we couldn't leave it sittin' in de middle of de street an' we couldn't move de thing.

Amos---Dat's zackly whut happened Mr. Collins.

Collins--Well now, quiet yourselves down. We've got about 5 minutes yet. I explained to the judge that you would be here about a quarter past ten due to unavoidable delay.

Amos---Well, I cert'ny is glad dat yo' done dat, an' I'se sorry dat we'se late.

Andy---We been out in de street arguin' wid a policeman fo' de las' 15 or 20 minutes.

Amos---De policeman say dat he would 'rest us an' I told him dat we was 'rested now an' we was on our way to Court.

Andy---Den I told him dat he couldn't 'rest nobody twice at de same time.

Amos---Whut is we 'sposed to do now Mr. Collins?

Collins--Well now, in a minute we will go in the Court room, take our seats up near the judge and jury. Madam Queen, her sister and lawyer Smith are seated up there now. I have arranged things so that you boys and Madam Queen and her sister will not be sitting close together. I don't want you to speak to Madam Queen nor her sister.

Amos---Yessah.

Collins---I want you to be quiet when you go in because the judge has already warned the spectators that there will be no talking in the court room and no demonstration of any kind.

Amos---Yessah.

Andy---Kin I look in dere through de do' an' see who's in dere? I just wanna peek in.

Collins--Go ahead.

Amos---I cert'ny is sorry dat we is late Mr. Collins but we just couldn't he'p it. Dat taxicab just laid down on us---right down.

Andy---(soft) Oh--oh---it's crowded.

Amos---How yo' think ev'ything's comin' out Mr. Collins?

Collins--Well, I can't tell you anything now. They have done nothing except swear in the jury--then we were granted a short recess. Now I think we'd better go in.
(fading) Excuse me just a second.

Amos---He's just goin' look in dere, I think.

Andy---I hope he don't leave me now an' go to Albany. If he do I'm goin' up dere wid him.

Amos---He ain't goin' leave yo'.

Collins--(fading in) Alright now boys, follow me and we'll take our seats up in front. The judge is back on the bench.

Andy---Come on Amos, stick by me.

Amos---I'se right behind yo'---keep goin'---I'se behind yo'.

Andy---Don't stay behind me---come on up heah WID me an' walk WID me.

Amos---Alright.

Andy---Ev'ybody lookin' at me.

Amos---Don't talk so much. (fast) Git up dere wid Mr. Collins--come on.

Andy---Oh--oh--dere's Madam Queen---look at her.

Amos---Git over dere wid Mr. Collins.

Collins--(quietly) Alright Andy, take a seat here. Amos, sit here.

Andy---Yessah.

Judge--(ffg) (in distance) (raps) Quiet in the courtroom please---ahem--- -quiet.

Andy---De judge looks like a bull dog.

Judge--(ffg) (in distance) I want to tell the spectators-- (coughs) and the people in this room there will be no talking or noise of any kind during this trial. Mr. Clerk, has the jury been sworn in?

Clerk---(cjc) They have your honor.

Judge--(ffg) Proceed Mr. Smith.

Andy---(soft) Oh--oh.

Amos---(soft) Dat's Mr. Smith gittin' up, ain't it?

Andy---Dat must be de jury in dat box.

Collins--Quiet Andy---Smith is going to speak.

Smith--(ffg) If the Court please, and gentlemen of the jury---we expect to prove on behalf of my client Madam Queen, that the defendant in this case has defied the laws of this country by leading a woman by promises, both written and verbal, to the very foot of the altar, and then threw her down and refused to marry her. We expect to prove

that the plaintiff in this case, Madam Queen, is a woman who has worked hard all of her life by operating a beauty shop---made her own livelihood, but gave up all on account of the promises she received from Andrew Brown, the defendant in this case. We expect to prove, and WILL prove, that Andrew Brown, knowing that the plaintiff had other offers of marriage, pleaded with her night after night to stop seeing her other friends, and we will show the court, please, and the gentlemen of the jury, letters to substantiate these verbal remarks from the defendant. We expect to prove that the plaintiff in this case was asked to marry a certain person who was making a good salary as a traveling salesman, and when the defendant in this case learned that the traveling salesman was Madam Queen's friend, he pleaded with her and practically forced her to give up his friendship, which automatically made her give up the thought of marrying this traveling salesman.

Andy---(quietly) I know who HE talkin' 'bout.

Smith--(ffg) We expect to prove that the plaintiff in this case believed the promises made by the defendant, and we will show the court, please, and the gentlemen of the jury, that the defendant not only requested her to make preparations for marriage, but he assisted her in making these preparations. We expect to prove that she gave up everything in life, depending ON the promises of this man Andrew Brown, and made all preparations for marriage---even to the extent of leasing an apartment, letting her beauty shop business go down to practically nothing, and gentlemen, he assisted her in making final preparation for the wedding up to and including ordering flowers for the decorations. We expect to prove that on the night of December 31st 1930, during a New Year's eve celebration at the home of George Stevens, better known to his friends as the Kingfish, at the stroke of 12, when everyone was celebrating the passing of the old year, this man Andrew Brown, called this little girl aside and told her emphatically, that he had changed his mind and could not marry her. We will prove how this action caused this hilarious party of innocent fun to immediately be disbanded and caused my client, Madam Queen, to go to bed, under doctor's orders, for weeks and weeks. We expect to prove that this illness has caused her great financial loss, loss of health which will never be restored, and embarassment which will continue until the last days of her life, and we expect to prove that the smallest, most insignificant compensation that the plaintiff could possibly receive

would be a financial reward, and even that will only partly pay for the broken heart, the long suffering, the ill health, and the financial loss she has stood. That's all, your honor.

Amos---Um--um.

Andy---De judge is goin' say sumpin'.

Judge--(ffg) Mr. Collins, do you want to make your open statement now, or reserve it?

Collins--No, your honor, we will reserve it until the plaintiff's case is in.

Judge--(ffg) Mr. Smith, will you call your witnesses.

Smith--(ffg) Yes, your honor. Madam Queen, will you take the witness stand?