

Fri. Mar. 6, 1931.

"AMOS AND ANDY"
by
Correll & Gosden.
No. 921.

Andy has been on the witness stand for the past two hours while his lawyer continued to lead him in a direct examination. The scene again takes us to the court room. Andy's lawyer has just completed his examination preparatory to turning the witness over to M. Smith. The court room is crowded and Andy realizes the importance of being careful when Madam Queen's lawyer starts cross examination. Here they are:--

COLLINS STARTS:

Collins--(cjc) Coming right down to the very truth, you did NOT love this woman.

Andy---Nosah.

Collins--(cjc) But you wrote her letters and made verbal promises because she virtually talked you into it.

Andy---Nosah---I mean yessah.

Collins--In other words, this woman, Madam Queen, caught you in her net, forced you to say things, and write things.

Andy---Yessah.

Collins--Letters that you would not have written under any circumstances had she not requested you to do so.

Andy---Yessah.

Collins--And I will close with one question----do you believe you would have been happy married to this woman, Madam Queen?

Andy---Nosah.

Collins--And why not?

Andy---'Cause I didn't love her, I don't believe she loved me, we was arguin' all de time, fightin' like cats an' dogs, an' she got a sisteh dat don't like me an' I don't like---her sister hit me on de head wid a UMBrella.

Collins--That's all. Cross examine.

Andy---(quietly) Oh--oh.

Judge--(ffg) Will the people in the rear of the court room be seated. This is not a circus.

Bailiff--(cjc) (in distance) Sit down in the back---and quiet in the court room.

Judge--(ffg) Go ahead Mr. Smith.

Smith--(ffg) Andy Brown, when you took that seat you raised your right hand and you were asked to swear that you would testify to the truth only, and nothing but the truth, and everything you have told up to now, IS the truth.

Andy---Nosah---I mean, yessah, yessah, yessah.

Smith--(ffg) When you first went into Madam Queen's beauty shop to get a manicure you told Madam Queen that you were lonesome and it made you happy even to talk to her while getting this manicure.

Andy---Yessah.

Smith--(ffg) Do you remember Madam Queen saying to you that she intended to get some girl to come in the beauty shop to assist her in the work?

Andy---Yessah.

Smith--(ffg) Do you remember telling Madam Queen that you did not want anybody but Madam Queen herself manicure your nails?

Andy---Seem like I is.

Smith--(ffg) Do you remember asking Madam Queen for your first date and she refused to give you a date?

Andy---Yessah.

Smith--(ffg) Do you remember asking her at least half a dozen times for a date before she gave you one?

Andy---Yessah.

Smith--(ffg) How long have you been in New York City?

Andy---I don't remembeh.

Smith--(ffg) Your friend, Amos Jones, stated that you had been here since August the 19th, 1929.

Andy---Yes, an' no---mostly yes.

Smith--(ffg) Very well.

Andy---Is you through wid me?

Smith--(ffg) I should say not.

Andy---Rescuse me.

Smith--(ffg) You met Madam Queen shortly after you arrived in New York City, which is more than 18 months ago, and if you have known Madam Queen for that length of time, why is it that you could not determine whether or not you loved her, or she loved you, in the course of 18 months, and why is it you kept asking her and begging her for dates?

Andy---I don't remembeh.

Smith--(ffg) That is no excuse. Answer that question.

Andy---NOSAH.

Smith--(ffg) Whut do you mean, nosir?

Andy---Dat's de answer.

Judge--(ffg) Quiet in the cour troom please.

Smith--(ffg) Why did you continue to ask this woman for dates?

Andy---'Cause I didn't have nuthin' to do an' Amos was goin' oveh to see Ruby Taylor an' I was lonesome.

Smith--(ffg) If the court please, and gentlemen of the jury, I would like to introduce as evidence in this case letters written by the defendant to the plaintiff.

Andy---(very soft) Oh--oh. (pause) All dem?

Smith--(ffg) I have here, on this table, 67 letters---- sixty seven love letters written by Andy Brown, addressed and sent to Madam Queen. I think it unnecessary to expose the contents of all of these letters to the court and jury but I would like to read one or two letters in part. First I would like to ask you, Andy, if that is your handwriting in that letter.

Andy---Lemme see it?

Smith--(ffg) Take a good look at it.

Andy---I don't remembeh.

Smith--(ffg) Is that your signature at the bottom of this letter?

Andy---Seems like it is.

Smith--(ffg) Well, if that is your signature, it is written in the same handwriting that the body of the letter is written in.

Andy---Oh, yo' right about dat.

Smith--(ffg) Then you admit that you wrote this letter.

Andy---I must-a done dat alright.

Smith--(ffg) I would like to read the court and jury part of this letter.

Andy---(soft) Um--um--um. (very quietly) Misteh, you ain't goin' read dat out loud, is yo'?

Smith--(ffg) He starts the letter by saying "My dear darling sweetheart, and sweet dumpling-----Today is the day that we was supposed to get married on, but fate---well, you know---It breaks my heart to know that we can't get married today, but I want you to know that I love you with all my heart and on January the 1st, when I get all the money that I IS gonna get, we will get married on THAT day, and be love birds." Do you remember writing that?

Andy---If I writ all dat stuff Misteh, my pencil slipped.

Smith--(ffg) But you wrote it?

Andy---I must've, if it's dere.

Smith--(ffg) I would like to read more from this same letter. He says, "Remember we must both be brave and wait until January the first, and sweetheart, when we is married, I will buy you everything." You not only told her that verbally, but you have put it in black and white.

Andy---Who?

Smith--You.

Andy---Oh.

Smith--(ffg) Did you not?

Andy---Well, if I is, I guess I is.

Smith--(ffg) You are not on the witness stand to guess.

Andy---Yessah.

Smith--(ffg) I would like to read the ending of this letter. "Sweetheart, I will never be happy until I is married to my sweet dumping, and I want you to promise me that you will wait until January the first and become Mrs. Andrew H. Brown, eskimo."

Andy---Dat's es-ki-quire.

Smith--(ffg) Well, you have on this paper Andrew H. Brown, eskimo.

Judge--(ffg) Quiet in the court room please----we will have no laughing during this trial.

Smith--(ffg) He then ends up the letter by saying "I love you more than anything in the world, and know that you love me." (repeats) "And know that you love me"----signed "Ducky Wucky." Did you write that letter?

Andy---Seem like I is, an' seem like I ain't, but it seem like I is mo', dan it seem like I ain't.

Smith--(ffg) Gentlemen, there is no argument about the defendant in this case writing this letter. If he would deny that emphatically, we could call in handwriting experts and prove that he wrote this letter, but I think, in his round about way, he has admitted it closely enough for your understanding.

Andy---Oh sho'.

Smith--(ffg) I have, in front of me on this table, sixty seven letters, all of which are written and signed by the defendant. They are all addressed to Madam Queen, but I will not take up the time to read you these mushy love letters that would make any woman believe the man writing them was sincere. I would like to read you one or two other things he has written. Is this your handwriting?

Andy---Nosah.

Smith--(ffg) You mean to say that this is not your handwriting?

Andy---I always cross my "t's" an' dat "T" ain't crossed.

Smith--(ffg) That's not a "T", that's an "L."

Andy---Oh---den I writ it.

Collins--(cjc) Your honor, it is not my intention to interrupt Mr. Smith in his cross examination, but if the court and the attorney for the plaintiff I would appreciate you granting a five minute recess.

Judge--(ffg) If you don't object Mr. Smith, we will have 5 minutes recess.

Andy---Kin I git down off heah fo' 5 minutes?

Collins--Alright Andy, sit over here. What's the matter, Amos?

Amos---I tell yo' Mr. Collins, somebody dat I been tryin' to see was standin' in dat door lookin' in de court room, an' he just left an' I wanna see him 'fore he gits out o' de buildin'.

Collins--Is it important that you see him?

Amos---Yessah.

Collins--Well, hurry up.

Andy---Whut's goin' on?

Amos---If I don't git back in 5 minutes, I'll be back as soon as I kin. Dis might take a long time.