

Tues. Mar. 10, 1931.

"AMOS AND ANDY"

By

Correll & Gosden

No. 924.

Yesterday, M. Smith, attorney for the plaintiff Madam Queen, started his final argument. He reviewed the facts and evidence for the court and jury very dramatically, picturing Andy as a wolf in sheep's clothing. Today Andy and Lawyer Collins came into court without Amos. Amos has been missing since 6 o'clock last night. Andy is very much upset because Amos has not returned. Even Andy's lawyer did not expect Amos to be gone for this length of time. This morning the judge instructed the lawyers to finish their final arguments today so that the case could go to the jury without any further delay. As the scene opens now the court room is crowded. Andy is seated at a table by himself glancing at the door every few seconds hoping that Amos will arrive. Attorney Collins has started his final plea to the jury in behalf of his client Andy. Here they are:--

Collins--And gentlemen of the jury, bear in mind that I am not condemning the laws of this country. I know, that for many years, men have paid for their promises, and a breach of promise suit is not new and is not a novelty in the courts of our country. I only ask you, gentlemen, being men with good sound judgement, to think carefully over the evidence presented to you by the defendant and his associate in business, Amos Jones. I also ask you to take into consideration the personalities of both the plaintiff and the defendant. Quite often we run across a type of woman that has been so rightfully named, a gold digger. While I am not attempting to label the plaintiff a gold digger, I refrain from doing so---ONLY BECAUSE--the defendant in this case has no gold. BUT I CAN TRUTHFULLY SAY THAT SHE CAN BE LABELED A MONEY DIGGER---and took all he had. The defendant in this case does not have \$25,000. He DOES have half interest in a taxicab company and third interest in a lunch room business. If you gentlemen, who will soon go in that room to determine the outcome of this case, were blind to the truth, and for some unknown reason, you made the great mistake of awarding the plaintiff any part of the amount in question, to be truthful I don't know how he can pay it. As I said to you about 5 minutes ago, this man was trapped the same as you trap live animals. He wrote letters to this woman. Sixty seven letters. If he was

the talkative, bragging man as Attorney Smith would have you believe he is, he would have told those things to this woman without writing her a letter to be delivered across the street, but the reason for not confining his remarks to mouth to ear, he wrote sixty seven letters, because, she begged him to write those letters. Letters are dangerous. Anything in writing is dangerous. I venture to say that, at some time during the life of each one of you, you have torn up some piece of paper because you wanted to destroy that evidence. She knew that, if she was successful in getting him to put certain things in black and white, she could get him in her net---and bleed him for every cent he could possibly make. Gentlemen, it is the custom of human nature for a man to stay shy of a gold digger, or a money digger, and you gentlemen have the opportunity of not only teaching a lesson to man, but to show WOMEN of this country that they cannot set their traps for a victim, drive him into court, and take his life's earnings. In conclusion, I beg of you to realize that this man, Andrew Brown, is a victim of a woman who has been married three times, left all of her husbands penniless, and seeing no prospect of getting money from a fourth husband, she has turned her efforts in the direction of a breach of promise suit. I hope, when you gentlemen go in that room, you will come to the right conclusion. That's all. Thank you very much.

Judge--(ffg) Will the people in the rear of this court room please be quiet. Mr. Smith, you are privileged to speak to the jury and the court again if you so desire.

Smith--(ffg) I would like to take that opportunity in just one minute. I want to speak to my client for a few seconds.

Judge--(ffg) Just because no one is on the witness stand or talking to the jury, that is no reason for you people to start talking in this court room. We will have absolute quiet in here.

Andy---(very quiet) I wish Amos would come on Mr. Collins.

Collins--(soft) I'm hoping he'll get here pretty soon myself.

Andy---How do it look fo' me---bad?

Collins--I can't tell a thing Andy.

Judge--(ffg) Quiet please. Alright Mr. Smith, if you're ready, go ahead.

Smith--(ffg) The court please, and gentlemen of the jury, my worthy opponent, Mr. Collins, made a very stirring address, trying his best to get under the skin of you gentlemen, trying to make you believe that this wolf, Andrew Brown, is a little boy in short pants, running around trying to hide from women. I resent very much some of the things said by Attorney Collins. My resenting these things has no bearing on the case, but tears are in the eyes of my client as a result of these remarks, and this little girl is being further humiliated by attorney for the defense.

Judge--(ffg) (raps) Mr. Smith, will you refer to your client as Madam Queen and not as a little girl. This case will go down in the records and you're giving the impression that she is 16 years old. Go ahead.

Smith--(ffg) Regardless of her age she is human, and I respect your wishes, your honor, and I WILL refer to her as Madam Queen. Attorney Collins stated that she is a money digger. If you call having a man take you out to dinner, being a money digger, then we agree with Mr. Collins, but since the history of man, and woman, it has been customary for the man to pay the dinner check, unless the man happens to be one like we hear about in the songs, a gigolo, and that big overgrown ox sitting there doesn't look like a gigolo. Attorney also spoke about Madam Queen forcing Andy to write letters.

Collins--(cjc) Your honor, I dislike to interrupt my opponent. I am not taking any objection to his remarks. However one of my witnesses, Amos Jones has just returned to the court room, and I would like to get permission to have him on the stand for just a few minutes.

Judge--(ffg) I will have to refuse you. Amos Jones has had his opportunity on the witness stand. Go ahead Mr. Smith.

Smith--(ffg) Gentlemen of the jury, Mr. Collins spoke of Andrew Brown being forced to write Madam Queen letters. Suppose we would grant that assumption. Suppose she asked him to write her a letter---which she did not, but suppose she DID ask him to write her a letter so that she could have something in black and white. If he loved her he would possibly grant her request and write the letter, but he would not, under any circumstances, let a woman force him into writing 67 love letters. Gentlemen, I assure you that SHE did not request him to write her these letters. Why

should a woman ask a man to write her letters? If she wanted evidence she had it in ONE letter, and she did not need 67 letters, and that is apparent because I only read you excerpts from two or three of the 67 letters. BUT THE WOLF WROTE HER 67 LETTERS VOLUNTARILY.

Collins--(cjc) You honor, I would like to ask the court again please for permission to place Amos Jones on the witness stand.

Judge--(ffg) This request has been refused, and is now being refused again. Please be quiet in this court room back there.

Bailiff--(cjc) You folks in the rear sit down.

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

Smith--(ffg) Gentlemen, I have presented to you one of the most complete cases, and one of the most one-sided cases ever recorded in any court in the United States. (aside to Judge) Your honor, would you ask Attorney Collins and Amos Jones to extend me the courtesy of being quiet during my talk to the jury?

Judge--(ffg) Mr. Collins, if you have to talk to your witness, take him out in the other room---we must have it quiet in here.

Collins--(cjc) Your honor, I realize that it is not in order to put a witness on the witness stand after the case is practically closed. You and the jury are here listening to this case to ascertain one thing, the truth---and if you do not permit me to put Amos Jones on the witness stand for a short time to tell a vital fact, you will have been wasting the time of THIS court and will only cause us to take an appeal, therefore wasting the time of another trial.

Judge--(ffg) Your witness has been on the stand, hasn't he?

Collins--(cjc) Yes, your honor, he has---but since that time, he has been working to help you, and those 12 men know the truth, and I beg of you to let him take the stand and tell what he knows.

Judge--(ffg) Put him on the stand and get it over with as quickly as possible.

Bailiff--(cjc) Do you swear that the testimony that you are

about to give in this case is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Amos---Yessah.

Collins--I will not examine you. I will just ask you to tell and prove what you know.

Amos---Well, de other day when Madam Queen fainted, I got respicious, an' I tried to find out why she fainted. I found out dat she fainted 'cause she saw sumpin'. She saw a woman and yesterday a woman fainted right out dere sittin' right about dere. Dis woman fainted 'cause she saw Madam Queen. I followed dis woman in de other room, I followed her home, and I got de whole story. Dis woman wanted to see Madam Queen lose dis case 'cause she hated Madam Queen, an' de reason she hated Madam Queen is because Madam Queen made dis woman's husband divorce her an' den Madam Queen married dis woman's husband---and dis woman is mad wid Madam Queen because she took her husband away from her. I is done found dis man dat married Madam Queen. He is her second husband. Madam Queen is been married three times, an' I got dis man, her second husband, out in de other room wid a policeman, an' he'll tell yo' right now, if you'll git him in heah, dat him an' Madam Queen ain't never been divorced. An' if whut I'm tellin' yo' ain't de truth, why is Madam Queen fainted again? Look at her. She's cold.

Judge--Quiet in this court room please. People, sit down.

Bailiff--(cjc) Everybody back in your seats. Quiet in the court room.