

RIDDLE SEES PLOT IN GRAFT CHARGES

Atlantic City Ex-Mayor Accuses Accusers and Brands Suit "Blackmail"

BLAMES FAULTY ACCOUNTS

A fight to the finish will be the answer of ex-Mayor "Bill" Riddle, former mayor of Atlantic City, to a suit filed against him as president of the Mary A. Riddle Co., of Pennsylvania, in this city yesterday by Clarence S. Busch, a former Philadelphia "Blackmail" and fraud. Mr. Riddle said, shortly before boarding a train for the city this morning to confer with counsel and arrange for a fight against Mr. Busch's petition, filed in the United States District Court for the appointment of a receiver for the Riddle companies.

Mr. Riddle added that Mr. Busch was a "minority stockholder." The plaintiff was, at one time, state printer of Pennsylvania. Subsequently, he became largely interested in Atlantic City property, and at one time owned the Hotel Ostend in Chelsea.

When Louis Kuehne, Atlantic City's old boss, was in financial straits several years ago Mr. Busch acquired Kuehne's one-third belonging in the Mary A. Riddle Co., of New Jersey, which subsequently became the Riddle Co., of Pennsylvania.

At Mr. Riddle's office today it was asserted the suit which Mr. Busch has launched in the federal courts is identical with what he instituted in the New

Jersey Chancery Court two years ago against the ex-mayor for an accounting. The case dragged along for more than a year.

Denied Graft Charge

At that time, as in the new proceeding, it was alleged ex-Mayor Riddle had appropriated to his own use \$174,176 of the moneys of the Riddle companies, and he replied he had paid in more than he ever took out. Ex-Boss Kuehne was a witness for several days. He took the stand while asserting Mr. Riddle, in whom he professed perfect reliance, had helped him out to the profits of the company. Riddle denied Kuehne's claims in toto, asserting his former associate had received large loans from the company's treasury with very little formality.

It was admitted by Mr. Riddle that the accounts of the Riddle companies had been kept for a time in a rather haphazard fashion, and opposing financial experts disagreed as to the receipts and disbursements.

As a result to a year of litigation Mr. Riddle was required to pay \$15,000 to the company, not because of any fraud upon his part, but on account of shortcomings in the system of book-keeping, it was stated at the ex-mayor's office here today. In the New Jersey Chancery Court proceeding, to which Kuehne was a co-plaintiff with Mr. Busch, Mr. Riddle asserted the greater part of \$191,303 of the assets of the Riddle Co. of New Jersey, which he was alleged to have converted to his own use when that corporation was supplanted by the Riddle Co. of Pennsylvania, went to Kuehne himself.

It is possible United States Senator Edge, who bought a block of ground on the Chelsea beach front from the Riddle company several years ago, will be called as a witness. It will be asserted during the trial of the Busch suit here that title to three properties the senator had given in part payment for the Riddle block had been converted to Lydin Palmer, Mr. Riddle's secretary. The ex-mayor broadly intimated in his testimony that Senator Edge had been "tripped" in the transaction.

SEE WOOD'S BOOM HURT BY DEFEAT

Johnson's Victory in Michigan Also Viewed as Blow at League

BORAH'S ATTACK IS FELT

Washington, April 7.—The result of

the primary in Michigan, in the opinion of political observers of both parties, gave an indication of the drift in the contests for the presidential nominations, and, according to some Republicans, showed the views of Michigan voters on the peace treaty.

Republican senators and others held that two outstanding contenders had developed in the race, Johnson and Hoover, while Wood's boom, which had been gaining steadily, had received a check. Johnson's victory, his supporters held, would put him to the fore in coming primary elections.

The Johnson leaders, notably Senator Borah, assert that the vote showed that the electorate was opposed to the League of Nations and approved the fight Mr. Johnson made against it. In this connection they comment on the fact that Attorney General Palmer, who supported the President's treaty position,

and was the only Democratic candidate to speak in the state, ran far behind Hoover. Mr. Hoover, they add, recently declared for ratification of the treaty with reservations.

Greater emphasis, however, is laid on the alleged big financial campaign of General Wood, which, many think, did not meet with the approval of the voters, who had the Newberry trial freshly before them. Supporters of General Wood admit that Borah's statement concerning expenditures of money by Wood's managers was one of the causes of the general's defeat.

Johnson, it is also pointed out, won favor in Michigan by his fight to have the Michigan troops returned from Siberia. Voluntary committees of mothers and fathers who had sons in Siberia were organized in his behalf.

Much significance is seen in the result

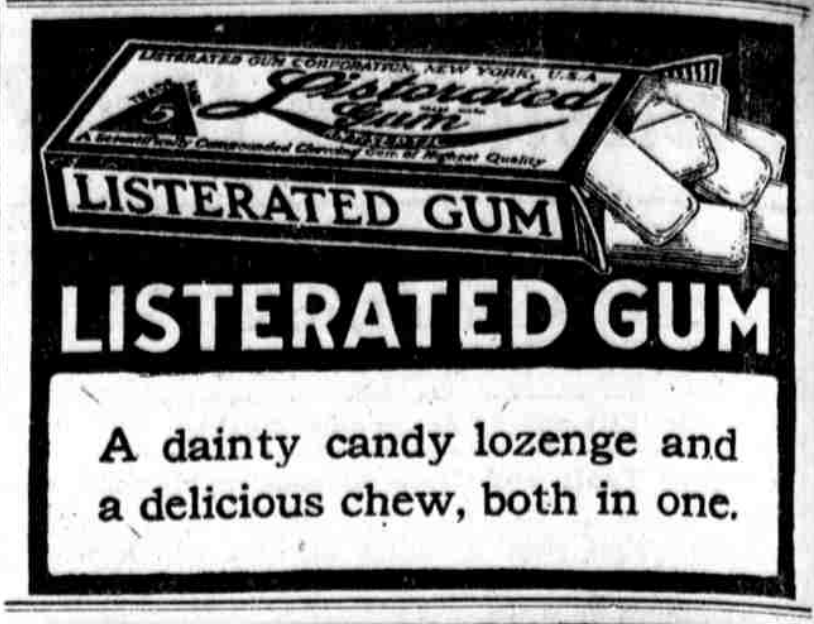
in the Democratic primary, where McAdoo is third and Palmer last, according to late returns. Some Democrats say that Palmer's showing has eliminated him from the race, which they think has narrowed down to McAdoo and Hoover.

G. O. P. WINS AT HARTFORD

Women Vote on Educational Matters, Approving High School Plan

Hartford, Conn., April 7.—(By A. P.)—Newton C. Brainard, Republican, was elected mayor of Hartford in the city election yesterday, defeating Mayor Richard J. Kinella, Democrat, by a plurality of 592 votes. Frank J. Madden, Labor party candidate for mayor, polled nearly 2000 votes, while the So-

cialists and Socialist Labor nominees received comparatively few votes. Women in large numbers went to the polls to vote on educational matters. An appropriation of \$1,500,000 for a new high school was approved. Most of the other officers elected are Republicans.



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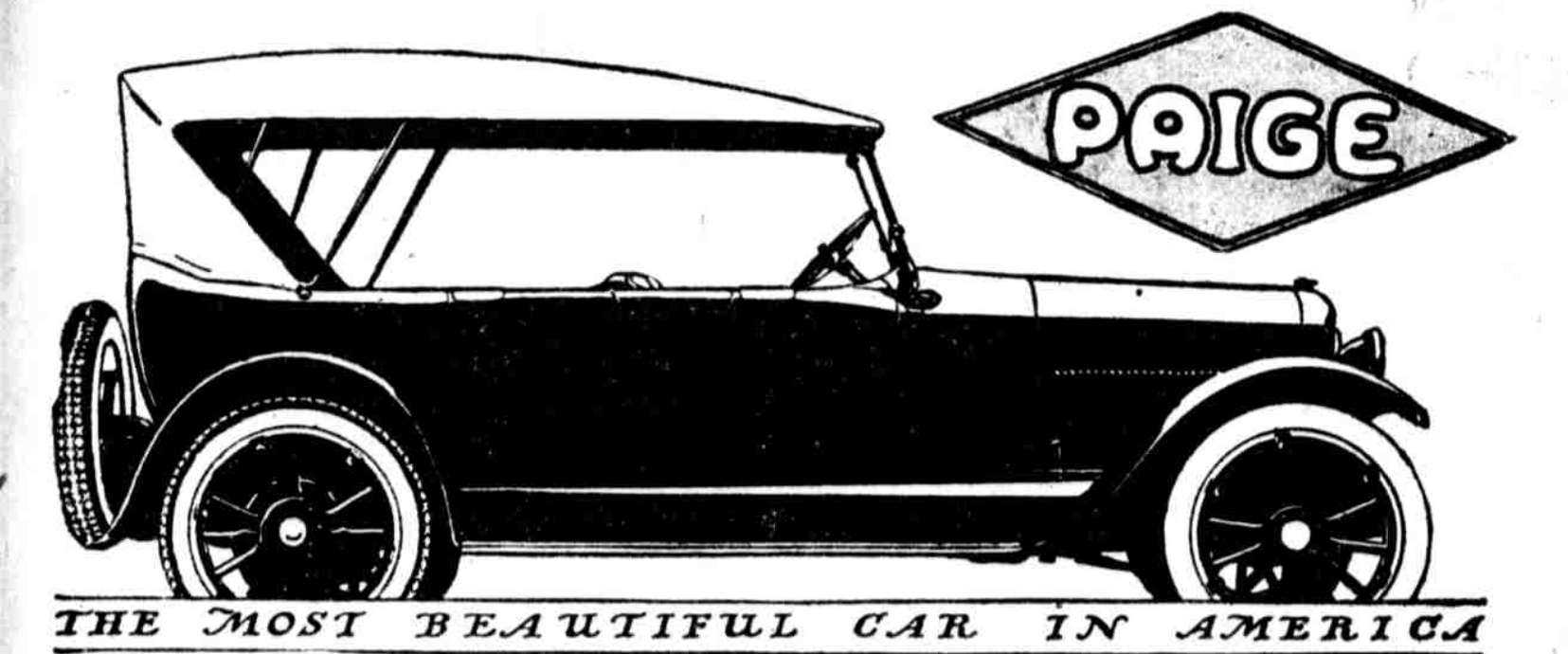
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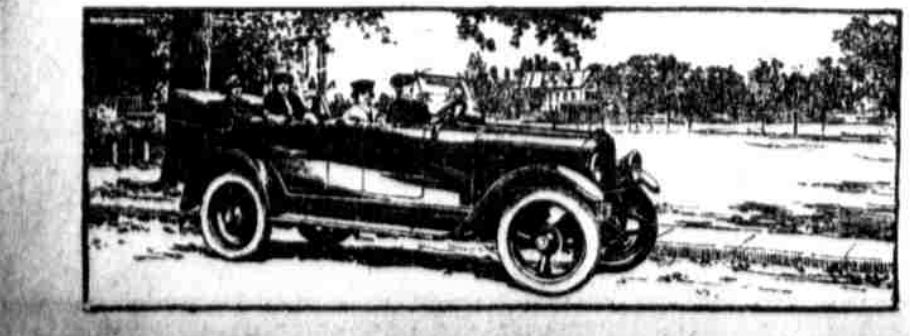
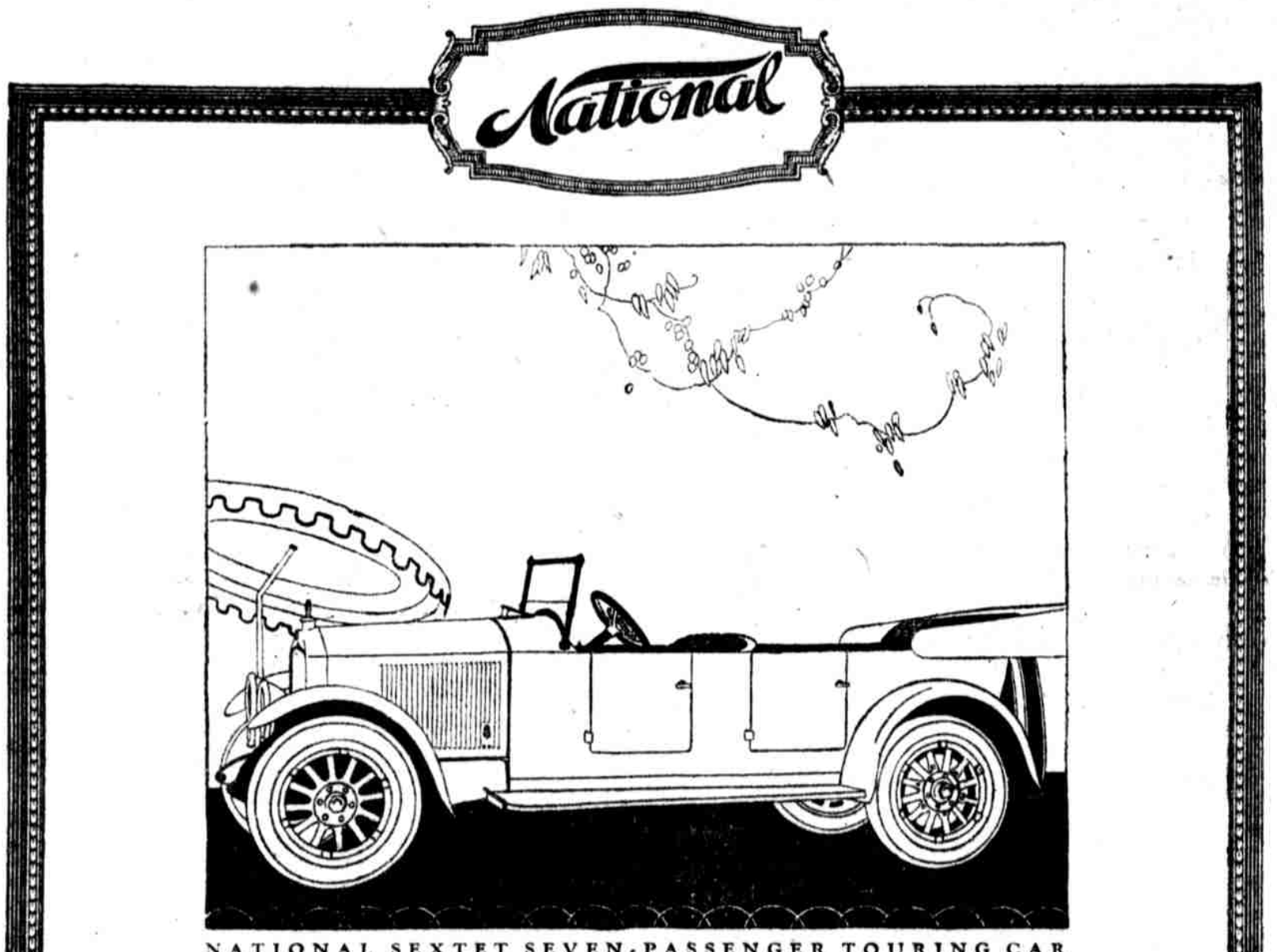
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