DIVORCE SWINDLER SOUGHT BY VICTIMS

New York Lawyer Alleged to Have Forged Judges' Signature to Bogus Decrees

HAD TRAINED WITNESSES

New York, April 1.—District Attorney Lee P. Davis, of Westchester county, said yesterday he was searching for Herbert F. Miller following evidence furnished by Supreme Court Justices Tompkins and Seeger and others indicating that Miller has been running a divorce mill with a great output of fraudulent decrees in Westchester county and probably in New York, Brooklyn, Queens, Richmond and Nassau counties.

Miller has been missing since January 19 of this year, when Justice Seeger wrote to him demanding his appearance to explain certain charges in connection with the first accusation against the divorce specialist.

Justice Seeger thereupon asked District Attorney Davis at White Plains to investigate. In the last few days evidence has come in a large volume, making it appear that Miller forged the signatures of Supreme Court justices; that he created fake acts of records which deceived justices into granting final decrees over their own signatures, and that sometimes, in dealing with poor clients, he issued his own personal decrees of divorce.

"He has evidently been manufacturing fake decrees of divorce for two years at least," said District Attorney Davis. "He has apparently separated a great many husbands and wives by crooked decrees.

"It will probably be a long time before the far-reaching effects of his work can be determined. In all probability many of those divorced by him have contracted bigamous marriages. The number of illegitimacy cases and matrimonial tangles of all kinds that will result can only be guessed. In some cases his clients are parties to the criminal acts committed by Miller. In other cases they are innocent victims.

"It is probable that Miller is not the only one implicated in fake divorces. He has probably had assistants. There are indications that a large-sized divorce ring has been at work, using various devices and frauds to procure decrees in this and other counties."

Suspicion had been aroused among officials in Westchester county by the many familiar faces which appear periodically on the witness stand in divorce cases. Miller is alleged to have managed a stock company of witnesses.

"He had five or ten well-coached witnesses on his staff, it appears," said Assistant District Attorney W. A. Ferris. "He appeared in a great many divorce cases and needed a large troupe in order to avoid using the same ones over and over at brief intervals."

TRIED TO REFORM HUSBAND

After Twenty Years' Failure Wife Now Seeks Divorce

New York, April 1.—The story of a woman who tried to reform a criminal and failed was told yesterday by counsel for Mrs. Jacob Luban, who is suing for divorce.

Luban, who is at Atlanta serving a twelve-year term for robbing the mails, filed a countersuit against his wife.

Oscar Seitza, one of the attorneys for Mrs. Luban, told of his client's unhappy married life. He said:

"Mrs. Luban has been pleading year after year with her husband to go straight and earn an honest living. She felt that if Luban had used his misdirected talent in business he would be a great success.

"Mr. Luban always neglected her, but whenever he was in trouble he would come to her for help and advice. He would beg her forgiveness and then go and sin again. This went on for the space of twenty years. Once Mrs. Luban went down on her knees to him and begged him to reform. She has two children who are going to a good boarding school. She begged him not to disgrace them.

"Luban replied:

"'I will not be dictated to by any woman.' Mrs. Luban then sued for divorce."

Two More Georgia Murders Reported

Covington, Ga., April 1.—In the Newton county courthouse from which the investigation of the alleged murder of eleven colored men on the John S. Williams plantation is being directed, officials yesterday heard another startling disclosure of the killing of two other men on the farm and later announced deputies are busily engaged in corroborating evidence which may result in the discovery of more bodies.

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LIVED IN ASYLUM FOR FAMILY'S SAKE

Girl at Last Breaks Down and Reveals Identity After a Blighted Romance

MADE SUICIDE ATTEMPT

Brockton, Mass., April 1.—Rather than disclose her real name and disgrace her family, Rebecca Zetlin, daughter of a wealthy New York man, voluntarily passed two years in an insane asylum, cursed with all the horrors that are an integral part of such an institution for a sane person.

The parents, who have been searching for the girl for five years, were informed of her whereabouts only after her failure in an attempt to take her life by poison had so broken her nerve that she admitted to a visitor at the asylum who she really was.

Five years ago Rebecca ran away from home in New York with a man who is so far nameless. After three years of married life, the man deserted her and she was homeless. In some way still to be explained she eventually went to New Bedford and was picked up in the street there with a broken leg.

She was treated in the local hospital, where it was learned the name she gave was false. Again and again, under persistent questioning, the girl gave wrong names. The authorities would visit the address given and learn over and over again that there was no such person living there. Finally her sanity was questioned and she was committed to the State Asylum at Taunton.

To have some name for the girl, the authorities called her "Dora Singer," one of the names she gave most frequently during the months of questioning previous to her incarceration.

The asylum officers saw she was highly educated, but believed—as seemed apparent—insane on the one subject, and evidently without friends. For two years she persisted in her deception until the strain of the associations became too much for her.

Verging on the insanity she had feigned, she attempted to kill herself by drinking poison a short time ago. The shock of the attempt combined with the relief at recovery, broke her nerve and she admitted to Mrs. Joseph Bushman, of the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society, that she was Rebecca Zetlin. Her parents were notified.

Mrs. Zetlin, the girl's mother, hurried to Taunton and took her daughter back to her New York home.

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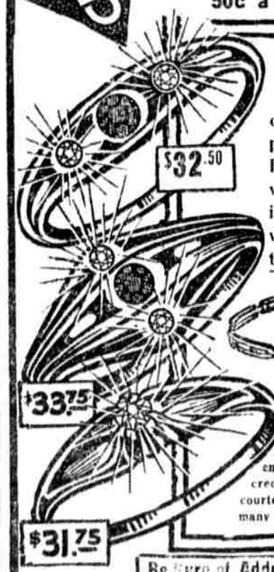

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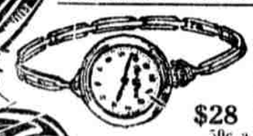

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