

## LUCKY STRIKE

The Varied Fortunes It Brought the Creedes

### RATHER CHECKERED CAREER

HOW LOU PATTERSON OBTAINED HER COGNOMEN

Can Eat Lots of Dope—Married and Divorced So Often Her Memory Is Hazy as to Details

There is a strong resemblance between the present status of the Creede wife and contest and a kitten walking over hot bricks. There is a dainty handling of the testimony that seems to be taken from something sensational later on. The facts developed yesterday could hardly be termed sensational, although they were somewhat spicy, and from the very fact that the present trouble has arisen, in part, at all events, from the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Creede were rough-spun characters, acknowledged to have been under the influence of the morphine habit, an element of strange, uncanny interest is given to the case.

First of all yesterday Mrs. Creede was called to the witness stand to prove that she was the same person from whom George Vandever, in 1886, had been granted a decree of divorce. The contestant was garbed the same as on Tuesday, in a lustrous black satin, gray cloak and a black velvet hat with ostrich plumes that appeared a trifle comical for the rather heavy spectacled face beneath. The witness stated that when she married Vandever in 1885 her maiden name was Nancy Louise White. As she had previously stated that she was 53 years of age last July, she must have been only about 14 years old when she first assumed matrimonial obligations. Running through the list of her various marriages Mrs. Creede testified to her name in each case and then was retired. Mr. Finlayson, upon offering in evidence the certified record of the Vandever divorce, was met with emphatic objection from the other side. Until nearly the time for adjournment arguments and counter-arguments were indulged in on the relative merits of twined and twined de. Mr. Foley, on behalf of the proponents, argued that the Illinois court had no jurisdiction of the divorce proceeding, and offered a long string of statutory objections which necessitated that Judge Clark should review the actions of the court of a sister state, after having first decided that the legal tribunal of this sister state actually had jurisdiction. The court refused to accept such an onerous undertaking, overruled the objection, and let the disputed documents go in.

These various documents are of the "hot stuff" variety of wall papered with racy detail. Vandever alleges that his wife had run off with a man and at later date had entered a house of prostitution at Paducah, Ky. On the ground of adultery committed within the boundaries of the state of Illinois the court in Illinois granted the decree to Vandever, and not for having in the first instance deserted him.

The court records in the several divorce proceedings to which Mrs. Creede had been a party were next put in evidence over the renewed objections of the opposition, and the first witness was called to the witness stand. This was a young lady, quite prepossessing in appearance, who gave the name of Ida Bloom. From her pronounced accent it might be inferred that she was of German origin, her testimony being given in a manner which did not indicate the very highest order of intelligence. Briefly, her testimony was as follows:

**OUT IN CREED CAMP**  
"I first met Mrs. Creede in the Creede camp in Colorado in February, 1892. Mr. Creede and his nephew, Sherman Phifer, were in the camp also, and I worked there as cook for seven months, and then for one year at Pueblo. We all went to Pueblo together and remained there from September, 1892, to September, 1893. In September, 1893, we started for Los Angeles. I went with Mr. and Mrs. Creede to Las Vegas hot springs, it being their wedding trip. Before the marriage Mr. Creede spoke of his wife as Lou Patterson, but after as Mrs. Creede. When the marriage ceremony had been performed Mrs. Creede indicated her new condition by wearing a wedding ring. In Los Angeles I remained with the Creedes for ten months, and then was away for three months. On returning I was with them for about five or six months.

"During the time I was with them I knew Mrs. Creede used morphine all the time. I have seen her take it two and three times a day, and she carried it in little bottles, the morphine being in powder form. The relations between Mr. and Mrs. Creede appeared to be happy, and she attended to him with assiduous attention. When Mrs. Creede was under the influence of morphine she appeared lively, good tempered and went about her work more cheerfully than at other times. After an hour or more she would act in an ordinary way, but I don't think she ever went without morphine. Ordinarily she was lively and talkative. She never took intoxicating

liquors, but used to imagine things. Sometimes she would think men were looking through the windows and at times would get up at midnight and sweep around and sometimes go out and begin washing the porch balustrade. There were servants in the house to do all such work. In addition to the morphine she 'dipped snuff,' taking a small teaspoonful at a time. I first saw her taking snuff in Colorado and right along since then she has taken it."

Upon cross-examination the witness explained how Mrs. Creede used to take her doses of morphine. She would pour powder amounting to the size of a pea into her hand and swallow it. In 1893 witness accompanied her mistress to Riverside, Ala., on a trip and they were absent from Pueblo for about six weeks. It was at the latter place that Mrs. Creede had the hallucinations regarding the men looking in at the windows. Witness was not at the house in Los Angeles when Mrs. Creede left it, being absent in Montana, but upon her return she remained with Mr. Creede as cook until his death and for several months after.

**THE AMETHYST PARTNERSHIP**  
Mrs. Creede, recalled, gave a lengthy statement of her life with her husband from the time of their meeting until the separation in January, 1897. She stated that she first met him at Del Norte, Col., in 1891. She then told him that she had found indications of gold in the Indian Territory, and thereupon both went out prospecting, with Sherman Phifer making the third member of the party. It was then agreed that each one should have one-third of whatever was found, but as it happened nothing was found. On the next trip Creede said that Lou Patterson—as she was then known—and he would share in any proceeds share and share alike, and upon this understanding they again started off, Sherman Phifer, the nephew, joining them later. After prospecting around they struck the place since known as the Creede camp, and then, after working around, Creede gave up in despair. He packed the burros and wanted to clear out. But Lou Patterson was made of pluckier stuff and begged him to remain for awhile longer. After some demur she got him to consent to remain just three days longer, and the woman with her own hands unpacked the burros. Those three fateful days the lodge was struck and the discovery of the amethyst mine became a matter of mining history.

"He made \$1100 a day out of the mine," said Mrs. Creede yesterday. "Afterwards, when we first spoke about dividing up, he said he would give me \$5000 and when we reached Pueblo he promised to give me a house. Some time after that I made the house over to Sherman Phifer at Mr. Creede's request. Creede appeared so hesitating that I asked him why we could not divide up and he could let me go. He replied that he would have halved up before but for the fact I would go away, and that if he did so then I would leave. He said that I had promised to marry him, and if I wouldn't do so that I would have to go to law to get my share. That conversation was in April; we were married in May and we came to Los Angeles in September. At that time there was no property standing in my name, for he said if we were married no necessity would exist for putting it in separate names."

**POISONING THE "DOPE"**  
"I first commenced using morphine," continued Mrs. Creede, in answer to the interrogatory of her counsel, "in the fall of 1895. I had got kicked by a cow and the doctor gave me morphine to ease the pain, and I kept on taking it. I took it by the mouth and never hypodermically, save when the doctor gave it to me. I have used fifteen to eighteen grains a day. I used it just when I needed it. Never so seldom as four times a day, but I can't tell how many times. A bottle lasted me about two and a half days. I used snuff ever since I was 7 years old, but never used liquors. In January of last year I took morphine in tablets and have some of them yet. Creede was using them, saying that he could quit it by taking them, and I told him that I didn't like them. He got vexed, and so I took them anyway. He gave me a bottle of them, but I didn't use them and got some of my own of the same kind."

"Why didn't you use them?" inquired Mr. Finlayson, curiously.  
"Well, I thought that as he was in with that woman they might put something else in."

"I quit using tablets when I left the house, for they made my brain feel as if it was in a compass. I left the house about January 4, 1897. I took from twelve to fourteen grains in the tablet form and sixteen grains sometimes each day while I was taking them. About September, 1894, I went to Elsinore and then to Riverside to take the Keely cure. Creede told me if I could get cured he would go. I paid my own way and stopped for about three weeks. The cure failed, and I think every one else that takes it. Sometimes I feel all right and sometimes strength seems to go out of my hands. I left before the cure was completed and thought I would go crazy. Since then I have seemed not to be able to use much morphine and other times I can take all I want. I had to keep using it. Sometimes I'm too weak; sometimes nervous and have the blues and I couldn't tell all the different symptoms. The least exertion causes a perspiration, but I guess that's weakness. If I go without morphine my voice gives out and has on occasions gone away altogether."

**THE WOMAN IN THE CASE**  
"Do you know Maggie Kearney?" began counsel, opening up a new phase of the case.  
"Yes, sir; I first met her at the intelligence office."

"How long prior was it to the time when you left Mr. Creede?"  
"About six or seven months."

"What did she come for?"  
"To nurse the baby."

"For awhile I saw he was infatuated with Maggie," continued Mrs. Creede, in narrative form. "I had seen him hugging and kissing her, and I asked him if we couldn't get on better. When I'd come to the room Maggie would run out and if I'd shut the door he'd open it. He told me that the only way we could get on better would be if we'd quit, and he asked me if I'd take care of him if he got sick. He asked me if I'd take \$20,000 and quit. I asked him if I wouldn't quit what then? He said there were lots of ways of getting rid of a person. Next day or the day after the agreement was produced, Creede told me I could take the money and he would give me more later, and I could go down to Texas or Mississippi. I asked Mr. Jones why I should leave my home and he advised that I had better sign it for if I went to law I mightn't get anything. He was Mr. Creede's lawyer, but I had no lawyer for they told me I didn't need anyone. The day the

agreement was signed Mr. Creede, Mr. Jones and I had no conversation about it. I didn't read it and didn't ask about the wording for they said it was all right. It may seem strange that I didn't know what 'alimony' meant but I didn't. I might, however, if I hadn't been hurt and worried by the whole affair. The agreement was signed in the First National bank, where we were for the purpose. I said 'I don't think I ought to sign this but I suppose I may as well.' I then got into a hack and went home and sat down and cried. I had received a check for \$20,000 at the bank from Mr. Jones. I saw Creede on the Sunday at the house where he told me that if I went to Texas or down south he probably would come to me by and by. When I left the house C. F. Hunter bought my ticket and I went east. I had thought of staying in the city and making a fight for the money at that time but I was discouraged and thought things would come around."

**ON CROSS-EXAMINATION**  
Mr. Gage began the cross-examination of Mrs. Creede by making her go over all of her matrimonial experiences. The dates, many of them, were so remote that she failed to remember the facts in connection with one marriage, saying that she couldn't remember.  
"A little matter like a matrimonial venture doesn't impress itself upon your memory," sarcastically quipped counsel.  
"Well, when there are so many," was the reply, "you are liable to miss one."

Being asked how it came that she had for a long series of years been known by the name of Lou Patterson, witness replied that one night at Paducah, Ky., a girl named Lou Patterson was going to a masked ball with an escort. At the last minute almost she asked witness to take her place and gave her her mask. She did so but at the ball her escort got involved in a fight, and it was reported around that Lou Patterson and her fellow had been in trouble. By way of nicknames the cognomen had clung to her more or less ever since.

Being questioned regarding the \$20,000 received by her from Creede and asked if she had ever offered to return the money, she replied that she had not. She had no reason to. She had a right to it and was not in the habit of returning money given to her by a man.

"And you had \$20,000 or \$40,000 during the two years previous to the time of the separation, hadn't you?" inquired Mr. Gage.

"No, sir; I had not; I never had any money save in the way of some presents, and money for us to live on."

Counsel submitted for witness' inspection checks drawn during 1894-96 by the late N. C. Creede, checks aggregating in value \$17,500, all in favor of witness. Some of these Mrs. Creede acknowledged receiving, while others she denied having ever received in Los Angeles, although she conceded she might have received them at Pueblo, Colo.

The case will be resumed this morning.

**A STRANGE COMPLICATION**  
John Woodruff Convicted of Embezzlement While Innocent

A most extraordinary complication has arisen in the case of John Woodruff, whose trial in Department one was brought to a conclusion yesterday morning by the jury returning a verdict of guilty.

Woodruff was tried on the charge of having embezzled a team belonging to G. Fetterman, a Long Beach liverman, in July last. The jury adjudged him guilty and placed the value of the team and rig at \$250, and within a couple of hours afterwards evidence was forthcoming by the strong witness that Woodruff had been wrongfully convicted; that most if not all the witnesses for the defense knew positively that he was innocent and for the best reason in the world—they knew positively that his brother Sam Woodruff was the guilty party.

All of the defending witnesses testified to a man named Sam Williams answered the description given by the witnesses for the prosecution in every particular. The defense showed that the defendant, John Woodruff, had shaved on the 4th of the month, while the prosecution contended that when the team was taken on the 5th of the month he had a pretty full beard. A very fair appearing alibi was proved by the defense, but Assistant District Attorney Williams argued to the jury that the defense was a matter of relationship, and the jury let the district attorney do their thinking for them and returned a verdict of guilty.

The defending witnesses hoped to clear John Woodruff by telling half of the truth, and without implicating the brother. What they swore about Sam Williams on the stand was true, but they failed to state that Sam Williams is the ordinary name by which Sam Woodruff is known. Even Judge Phillips, who defended the case, did not know that.

If John had been acquitted nothing more would have been heard of the matter, but having been convicted, his relatives insist that the Simon-pure offender stand up and face the music. Last night the constable's deputy, in company with Woodruff's brother-in-law, went out to hunt up the offender.

Meantime, however, John Woodruff stands in a curious position. He is not guilty of wrong, and yet he is a convicted prisoner. There is no basis upon which may rest an application for a new trial, the court cannot set the jury's verdict aside, and it seems as if it remains only with the governor, upon proper recommendation of the facts being made, to pardon him for having been while innocent adjudged by a jury guilty of crime.

**INJURED INNOCENCE**  
Lena Perret Has Her Whilom Lover Arrested

H. Harris Argalvite, a young fellow of about 20 years, was arraigned before Justice Young yesterday on the charge of seduction. The complaint was made by Lena Perret, a young girl, who charges the debonaire Argalvite with having accomplished her ruin on or about June 1, 1897. Miss Perret was a Salvation Army lassie, but since her fall from grace has severed her connection with the organization. She has followed the occupation of table waitress at the Ellis house on Broadway and has roomed at the Temperance tabernacle on Temple street.

Argalvite is a well appearing young fellow, who has been employed at a woolen supply house on Broadway. His examination was set for Friday.

**Point in Federal Law**  
Noah Lee, the youth indicted a short time ago for train robbery in Indian territory, has been in the county jail here awaiting the warrant for his removal to the eastern district of Texas. Yesterday morning Lee's attorney appeared at the district court and resisted the application for a warrant of removal under section 1014 of the revised statutes. As the question involves a

very important point in federal law—the right of jurisdiction of one district court in the district of another—the matter was taken under consideration and Judge Wellborn will render his opinion Friday.

**Peck Wants to Be Free**  
Petition for a writ of habeas corpus was filed in the district court yesterday by W. P. James, attorney for Augustus E. Peck, the postoffice clerk who was arrested on the charge of stealing letters from the office. The federal grand jury indicted him and he was sentenced under accumulative counts to eighteen months' imprisonment. The petition claims that Peck has served his time on one of the counts, and as each of the seven charge him with the same offense his discharge from custody is asked. The matter is taken under consideration and will come up Friday.

**New Suits Filed**  
The Midland Brick and Tile company vs. Charles L. Powell—A suit to revive a judgment for \$570, with interest from October 17, 1894, with costs of suit.

Jacob Kelch et al. vs. Mary A. Tally et al.—A suit to have defined the amounts due from the defendant, H. Parsons, to the several plaintiffs on certain contracts; also amounts due by defendant to Parsons at the time certain liens were filed.

G. A. Cortelyou et al. vs. O. H. Jones et al.—Complaint on foreclosure of mortgage, on a note for \$630, secured by part of lot 15, Garey tract addition.

**Court Notes**  
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**COURT CALENDAR**  
Cases to be Called in the Departments Today

DEPARTMENT ONE—Judge Smith. (2432) Will Ford; burglary; trial.

(2418) Wm. Hoffman; robbery; trial. (2405) Percy Collette; burglary; arraignment.

DEPARTMENT TWO—Judge Clark. (N. P. 152) Geo. W. Durfee; petition to set personal property aside.

(2472) Munger & Griffith Co. vs. Johnson. DEPARTMENT THREE—Judge York. Templeton vs. Cochran.

(2392) Bidleman vs. Bidleman. DEPARTMENT FOUR—Judge Van Dyke. (2494) Smith Premier T. W. Co. vs. Beatty.

DEPARTMENT FIVE—Judge Shaw. (2397) Powell vs. Jay. (2379) Mitchell vs. Mitchell.

DEPARTMENT SIX—Judge Allen. (2379) Jackson vs. Thorp et al. TOWNSHIP COURT—Justice Young. Peiter vs. Reynolds; trial; 9:30 a. m.

People vs. Melendez. People vs. McDonald; felony; 10:30 a. m.

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DEPARTMENT TWO—Judge Clark. (2389) Estate of Lucchetti; citation. (N. P. 293) W. F. Lancaster; petition to allow claim.

(N. P. 211) Esperanza Cola de Lopez; certificate of sale of real estate. (2504) Luck vs. Luck; trial.

(120) Estate B. Yorba, sr.; distribution. (65) Estate M. Wagner; final account and distribution.

(344) Estate T. K. Wilson; trial. (15439) Estate B. C. Kennedy; final account and distribution.

(1735) Estate N. O. Hopkins; partial distribution. (2342) Estate E. Walbridge; probate of will.

(1839) Estate and guardianship C. W. Ott; citation. (2111) Estate C. de Lopez; petition to set apart and confirm sale real estate and personal property.

(1299) Estate I. M. Lelhy; citation. (112) Estate T. Johannsen; final discharge.

(2332) Estate J. E. Messerve; letters. (2364) Estate M. R. de Marquaz; letters. (2294) Estate R. Fletcher; letters.

(2297) Estate H. D. Mason; letters. (1845) Estate H. E. Stone; final account and distribution.

(5895) Estate and guardianship A. Lucchetti; citation. (1719) Estate C. Richards; partial distribution.

(2341) Estate D. Nelson; letters. (1896) Estate and guardianship S. Russell; final account.

DEPARTMENT THREE—Judge York. (2509) Green vs. Burr; trial. DEPARTMENT FOUR—Judge Van Dyke. (2504) McDonald vs. Watson et al.

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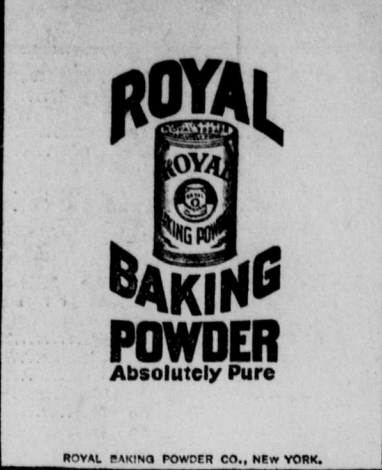
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TOWNSHIP COURT—Justice Young. Harris vs. Anderson; trial; 9:30 a. m. Standard Collection and Mercantile Co. vs. Krunick; supplemental proceedings; 4 p. m.

Standard Collection and Mercantile Co. vs. Rundbach; supplemental proceedings; 4 p. m. Standard Collection and Mercantile Co. vs. Tobin; supplemental proceedings; 4 p. m.

Carlin vs. Wilson; 1:30 p. m. People vs. Bentley; 10:30 a. m.

**PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND**  
If You Are a Doctor and Were There at the Time

The following inquiry was received at the postoffice yesterday, and if either the "landlady" or the "doctor" mentioned recall the rather unusual incident they can manifest the same or not as they see fit:

DE LAND Florida Jan 7th 1898 Postmaster, Los Angeles, Cal

Dear P. M.: I ask a favor of you. W. W. Tatum, a Spiritualist and Medium has been lecturing here. And in one of his talks he said that while in your city his spirit life left the body, and his body lay for 48 hours in a boarding house or Hotel kept by a lady—that a counsel of M. Ds was called to examine his body. That they pronounced him pulseless and dead, and ordered the body removed to the undertakers. But the landlady would not permit this as she had promised the Medium to keep the body 48 hours which she done, that at the hour named the Dr's again assembled to witness the return of the dead man to life, that life did return to the body, and that the said M. Ds attested to the fact of death and return to life, and he further stated they were ready at any time to satisfy the most incredulous of the marvelous said and requested his hearers to write these M. Ds and find out his stories was true. Now my dear P. M. I wish you to hand this letter to one of the Drs present or give me the advice I seek. I wish to learn if Prof. W. W. Tatum is a true or a false medium. You will confer a great favor by assisting me. I enclose stamp for reply. Very Truly Yours,

R. L. AUSTIN, Box 719 De Land Florida This happened about two years ago.

**Second Semester**  
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And Extension Tables, \$4.50, \$5, \$6.50, \$7.50 and up  
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