

How They Are Trying To Upset Mary Pickford's

The Attorney-General of Nevada's 7000-Word Statement in His Suit to Have the Divorce Annulled Because of the Alleged Conspiracy by "Our Mary" and Owen Moore to Deceive the Judge with False Testimony



Mary Pickford and Her New Husband, Douglas Fairbanks (and "Doug's" big dog). If "Our Mary's" Divorce from Owen Moore Is Cancelled by the Nevada Courts It Will Make a Very Embarrassing Situation for the Newly Married Couple, Mr. and Mrs. Fairbanks.

MARY PICKFORD'S divorce suit against Owen E. Moore at Minden, Nevada, was begun on Monday, March 1. "Our Mary" sat in the witness chair for half an hour next day, Tuesday, and before sundown she had been granted her divorce.

As Mary Pickford left the little courtroom she remarked her surprise at the quickness with which it had all been accomplished—"began on Monday, ended on Tuesday," she said. And somebody in the courtroom quoted the Old Mother Goose rhyme of Solomon Grundy:

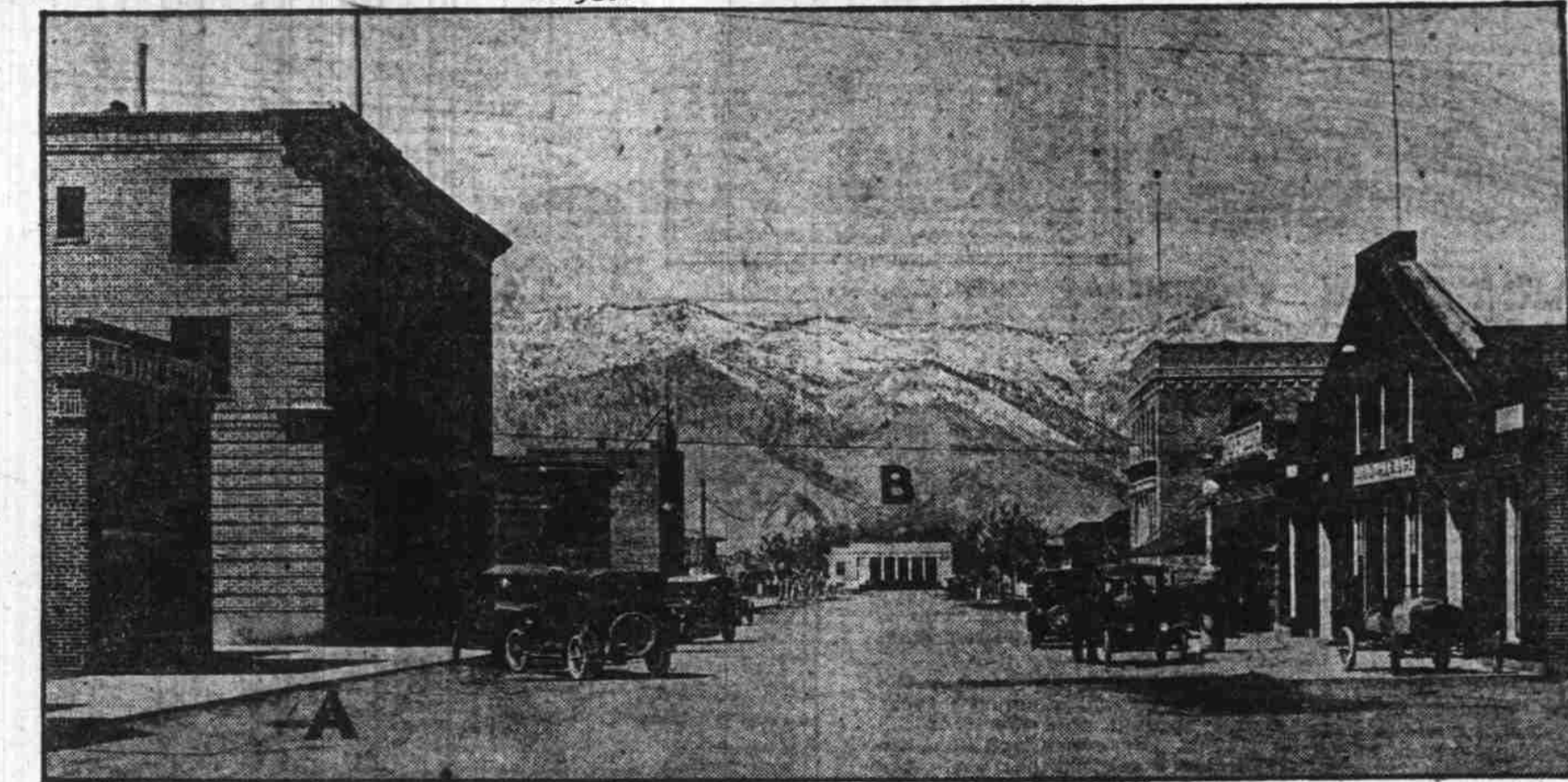
Solomon Grundy,
Born on a Monday,
Christened on Tuesday,
Married on Wednesday,
Took ill on Thursday,
Worse on Friday,
Died on Saturday,
Buried on Sunday.
This is the end of
Solomon Grundy.

The Pickford divorce had, indeed, moved swiftly—began on Monday, ended on Tuesday, and Miss Pickford leaves Nevada in a day or two and hurries back to Los Angeles, Cal. And on March 28 "Our Mary" married Douglas Fairbanks, the popular movie star.

But a cloud was gathering on the matrimonial horizon. The sweet honeymoon was disturbed by rumors that the divorce proceedings were being investigated. On April 16 a piece of news came over the wires from Nevada that shocked Mary Pickford and drove the genial smile from the face of Douglas Fairbanks—the Attorney General of that State had begun a suit to annul the divorce!

Of course, everybody knows that the divorce laws of Nevada are extremely liberal. Almost anything will do there as an excuse for a divorce. The peculiar Nevada law was passed many years ago upon the theory that the binding together of male and female in wedlock when love and respect no longer existed was a situation which ought to be made easy to bring to an end.

But there was one thing which the law insisted on: that the person bringing the divorce action must be an "actual, bona fide resident of the State and County" for more than six months or "where the plaintiff being an actual resident of the County the defendant can be found within the County and personally served therein."



View of the Only Street in the Little Town of Minden, Nevada. It Looks Like a Motion Picture "Set" with the Only Hotel (A) in Town Where Mr. Moore Stopped a Few Hours, the Courthouse (B) Planted at the End of the Street, and the Picturesque, Snow-capped Range of Mountains in the Background.

bona fide" resident of Nevada? Mary Pickford has sworn that she was then, and intended to remain permanently, a resident of Nevada.

The Attorney-General swears that he has information to prove that this is not true—that Mary Pickford never, at any time, was an actual resident of Nevada and never intended to be.

It has been pointed out that it was a curious coincidence that immediately following the arrival of Mary Pickford in Douglas County, Nevada, her husband, Owen Moore, should have happened to arrive in that same Douglas County, Nevada. The clause in the law as quoted above permits a divorce action to move with great speed "where the defendant (Owen Moore) can be found within the county and personally served therein."

Did Owen Moore, by a miraculous chance, happen into Douglas County, Nevada, just at that opportune moment without knowing that his wife was there and that it was vitally important for her lawyers to be able to serve the papers in the suit "within the county?" Or was it a prearranged scheme to have Mr. Moore come and stay just long enough to be served and satisfy the legal requirements of the case?

Mary Pickford swears that she had nothing to do with her husband's opportune arrival and hadn't the slightest idea that he was coming to Nevada.

The Attorney-General declares that it

was a put-up job and that Mary Pickford and Owen Moore arranged it all in advance as a part of their conspiracy to go through the hollow forms required by law.

In view of the accusations made by the Attorney-General against Mary Pickford, it is interesting to read her testimony. First and last during her examination Miss Pickford was asked and answered 161 questions.

Her testimony on the question of whether she intended to become an actual, bona fide resident of Nevada is very explicit. And her sworn answers to the questions as to how she happened to hear about her husband's arrival in Nevada are also perfectly clean cut and unequivocal.

It is interesting to note how Judge Langan gave special attention to those two points—whether Mary Pickford was a genuine resident of the State and how it happened that the defendant, Owen Moore, happened along so opportunely.

Judge Langan listened to Mary Pickford's answers to her lawyer and then the Judge went over the whole ground himself with great care and particularity. Was Judge Langan suspicious? Why should His Honor, after Mary Pickford's answers to her lawyer, lead her over the same ground again and make her repeat her fatigued statements?

And if Mary Pickford on the movie screen is convincing—so Mary Pickford

ON February 15 last a demure little figure in black, with big colored goggles to disguise her features, stepped off a train at Minden, Nevada. She said she was "Miss Smith" and she drove to the Campbell Ranch, eight miles out in the mountains.

It was Mary Pickford. She had arrived from California to seek a divorce from her husband, Owen E. Moore, under the very easy divorce laws of the State of Nevada.

One thing Nevada is insistent upon in a speedy divorce—that the defendant in a divorce action shall either appear in court during the trial or that it should be approved to the judge that notice of the divorce suit had actually been served on him in the State of Nevada to give him opportunity to appear in the action.

A few days after Mary Pickford Moore arrived in Nevada, by quite an extraordinary coincidence Owen Moore himself got off a train and spent a few hours in a town just a few miles away from his famous wife. Mr. Moore remained just long enough to let Mary Pickford's lawyers serve him with the necessary legal notice of the suit.

That was on Monday, March 1.

The next day, Tuesday, March 2, the same quietly gowned little figure, wearing the same big colored goggles, took a seat in the Douglas County Court room at Minden. At five o'clock in the afternoon the divorce suit of Gladys M. Moore against Owen E. Moore was called, and "Our Mary" slipped into the witness chair, took oath to tell the truth, and then gave the testimony which was printed on this page last Sunday, detailing her wretched matrimonial life

with Owen Moore since she married him, at the age of seventeen, in Jersey City, in 1911.

Judge Langan granted the divorce and Mary Pickford left the courtroom commenting on how quickly and how easily the thing had been accomplished. She packed her trunk, hurried away to her home in Los Angeles, and a few days later married Douglas Fairbanks, the popular movie star.

But Mary Pickford's happy honeymoon as Mrs. Douglas Fairbanks was rudely disturbed by the crushing news that the Attorney-General of the State of Nevada had brought suit demanding that the decree divorcing Mary Pickford from Owen Moore be annulled.

The assertions set forth under oath by Attorney-General Fowler in his complaint are extraordinary. Without mincing words the Attorney-General swears that Mary Pickford has schemed and conspired to mislead and trifle with the courts of Nevada, and that she is guilty of collusion, fraud and false testimony. Exactly what is charged against her is told in full elsewhere on this page to-day.

And if the divorce is upset?

What a distressing mess it makes of her marriage to Douglas Fairbanks!

And if another little Mary Pickford should come into the world presently—would its name legally be Fairbanks, Pickford or Moore?

Next Sunday on this page will be printed Mary Pickford's answer to the charges made by Attorney-General Fowler as explained by Miss Pickford's lawyer and what they are going to do about it.

Mary Pickford's Testimony Which the Attorney General Says Is False

(From testimony at the hearing in the divorce suit, March 2)

QUESTION BY LAWYER McCARRAN (Mary Pickford's Attorney)—

Where do you live?

ANSWER BY MARY PICKFORD MOORE—At Genoa, Nevada.

Q—When did you first come here?

A—The 15th day of February.

Q—Have you any other residence?

A—No.

Q—It is your intention to make Nevada your residence?

A—Yes.

Q—Mrs. Moore, did you by any means know of the coming of your husband into this State?

A—No, sir.

Q—Did you make any arrangements whereby he was to come into this State?

A—No, sir.

Q—When did you first learn that he was in this State?

A—My manager told me Mr. Moore was coming to Nevada to look for a coal mine for one of his pictures.

Q—And did he mention any place that your husband might be going to?

A—Yes, he said something about Virginia City.

QUESTION BY JUDGE LANGAN—Do you know where there are coal mines in Virginia City? You mean gold mines.

ANSWER BY MARY PICKFORD MOORE—Yes, gold mines.

QUESTION BY LAWYER McCARRAN—What, if anything, did you do on hearing that he might come into this State?

ANSWER BY MARY PICKFORD MOORE—Why, I telephoned you and informed you.

Q—Did you see Mr. Moore?

A—No, sir.

QUESTION BY THE JUDGE—Did you have anything to do with the appearance of Mr. Moore in this vicinity?

ANSWER BY MARY PICKFORD MOORE—No, sir!

Q—I want to have you very clear on this. No arrangements were made between yourself and your husband whereby he was to come into this State?

A—No, sir.

Q—When was it that you determined to stay in Nevada?

A—When the doctor told me that I needed a change.

Q—And when was that?

A—That was at Christmas, about two weeks after.

Q—Have you ever, directly or indirectly, had any understanding with Mr. Moore that you should come into the State of Nevada, and after being here, that he should come into this State, and that you should institute divorce proceedings and have him served with papers?

A—No, sir.

Q—Is it your purpose and intention to remain in the State of Nevada as a resident and particularly in the County of Douglas?

A—Yes, sir.

Q—Is it your purpose to build here?

A—Well, if I can find a place to suit me I will.

Q—And you have given up Los Angeles as your residence and your permanent residence is Genoa, Douglas County, Nevada?

A—Until I regain my health, but this will be my home.

Q—Do I understand that you have come into this State in good faith, seeking health and nothing else?

A—Yes, sir.

Q—That you have not come into the State of Nevada for the purpose of instituting divorce proceedings?

A—No, sir.

Q—That is absolutely so?

A—Absolutely so.

BY THE JUDGE—I think I have gone into this question pretty thoroughly. I feel that I should do so in all of these matters in view of the fact that our statute requires a six months' residence. Therefore we should look into these matters thoroughly.

That is all, Mrs. Moore.

Fowler asserts that there is no truth in Mary Pickford's sworn statement that she did not know that her husband was coming to Nevada. On the contrary, the Attorney-General asserts that a conspiracy was formed and that Owen Moore, by previous arrangement and collusion with Mary Pickford, came to the State and the county for the purpose of assisting her in obtaining a

divorce, contrary to the spirit and requirements of the law of the State. But Mary Pickford and Owen Moore are not where Attorney-General Fowler can get his hands on them. They are in California, and the jurisdiction of the Attorney-General does not extend beyond the borders of the State of Nevada. When a lawsuit is brought it is necessary to serve notice of the suit on the party the suit is