

THE SPHINX SPEAKS



FRANK CRUSE



A SPHINX
for
SEVEN
YEARS



LOUISE CRUSE

MECHANICVILLE, Ia., April 30.—"I'll never speak to you again as long as we live!"

It was seven years ago that Frank Cruse, in hot anger, shouted those words at his wife, Louise.

For seven years he made good his threat.

During those long years he said not one word to his wife—the woman who had been his helpmate for nearly half a century, who had borne him ten children and toiled and struggled with him to make a home on the rolling Iowa prairie.

And so Mrs. Cruse has just been given a divorce, by Chief Justice De Graff of the Iowa Supreme Court, in one of the strangest cases in American legal history—"for, silence."

Struggling Together
Frank Cruse is 70; Mrs. Cruse is one year younger. They came into the west, these two, back in 1882, when the lush acres of Iowa spoke to the strength of youth and challenged it to garner treasure from its rich black breast.

They bought a quarter section of land. Honest, happy struggling pioneers in this virgin country. Ten babies came to them. Love and work, tempests and then sunshine again—

Until that one night when, with nearly forty years of marriage behind him, Frank Cruse shouted to his wife that he would never speak to her again.

Just a trivial thing they had quarreled over, the children say—some little spat about Mrs. Cruse's desire to adopt a little niece.

Little—But Big
Trivial—and yet big enough to wreck a home that had been builded on 37 years of love and happiness.

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Palmer Piano House

Louise Cruse went about her work and Frank Cruse went about his. He toiled in the fields and she toiled about the house. And never a word did he speak to her. Loneliness descended on the crowded farm house.

For seven years! Not one word from her husband for seven years.

Through springtime and summer, through hazy autumn and keen winter, through Christmas and birthdays and homely little fireside holidays—not one word.

Possibly the faithful wife would have gone on for years bearing the grief her husband imposed upon her by his silence.

But, at last the torrent broke.

It was he who, could stand the silence no longer.

He found his voice.

Like searing, burning lava all

the dammed up speech that had been festering and corroding and turning to gall and vitriol within his heart poured itself on the white head of the woman who had stood by him through talk and through silence.

The husband, a sphinx no longer, drove away the children with a shotgun. He cut the telephone wires and poured abuse on his wife in a raging torrent—until at last she got away from him.

"A Good Provider"
The county court denied her a divorce. Cruse was a "good provider," honest and hard working. What more could a woman want.

But Supreme Court Justice De Graff saw it differently. He gave her the divorce, and described Cruse as follows:

"Domineering and arbitrary to the point of tyranny, unsympathetic to the point of cold-bloodedness, unkind to the point of cruelty, stubborn to the point



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of absolute obstinacy, uncommunicative to the point of absolute silence and parsimonious to the point of niggardliness."
Louise Cruse, divorcee, will have \$100 a month alimony. But she is 69 and husbandless just as they should be celebrating their golden wedding.

CHARLEY HOFF WILL ATTEMPT NEW RECORD

SAN FRANCISCO, May 3.—(UP)—Charlie Hoff of Norway, world's champion pole vaulter, will attempt to top his own record here May 8.

Hoff will appear as the most important individual star in the track and field championships of the Pacific association; sectional branch of the A. A. U., at Kezar stadium.

The Norwegian's record—the world's record—is 13 feet, 11 15-16 inches. He has announced that he will try to clear 14 feet.

According to tentative plans, Hoff will meet the strongest competition he has had since coming to the United States. He is slated to engage Lee Barnes, Olympic games champion and holder of the American outdoor record, and Ralph and Harry Smith, who have both defeated Hoff in competition.

With prospect of this meeting in view, sport critics believed it certain that a new record will be set in the American pole vault at least.

Interest of Californians is largely centered on Hoff's scheduled performance, despite the fact that the meet will furnish a three-cornered battle between the University of California, Stanford University and the Olympic club of San Francisco. The com-

CHILD HEALTHY JUST BEFORE SCHOOL

NEW YORK, May 5.—(UP)—Of all human beings the most unscientific and inefficient is parent craft, according to Dr. Thomas D. Wood of Teachers College, Columbia.

"Instinctive parental love is substituted for rational parental care by many parents," he says, "and the babies not only do not get the protection and careful regulation they need, but actually suffer from the effects of the sentiment."

Dr. Wood urged parents everywhere to give their aid and support to the summer Round-Up by the National Congress of Parent Teacher Associations of all the boys and girls who are to enter school for the first time next fall.

The campaign was inaugurated in connection with the celebration of May Day as Child Health Day. The month of May will be devoted to physical examinations for next fall's grade school "freshmen." The defects discovered will be given corrective treatment during the summer by private doctors or at clinics so that those youngsters will enter school next fall in the best possible physical conditions.

"The great weakness in American health efforts today is the pre-school child," Dr. Wood declared. "The new baby gets excellent care under the supervision of nurses and physicians and then the youngsters are left to the

petition is also, expected to furnish a good insight into the possible outcome of the Pacific Coast conference track and field meet, to be held at Stanford just one week later.

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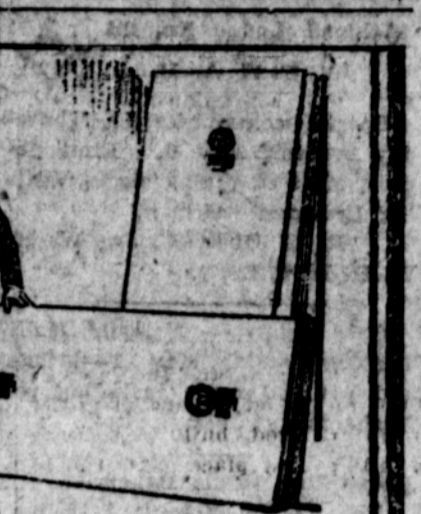
Burbank's Pen is Given To Friend

SANTA ROSA, Cal., May 5.—(UP)—The fountain pen with which Luther Burbank kept his records, signed his letters, interviews and other documents is now possessed by George Baudrand of this city.

Baudrand, who was a personal friend and confidant of the giant

ward, was presented with the pen by Mrs. Elizabeth Burbank, widow and administrator of the estate.

The pen is inscribed with Burbank's name.



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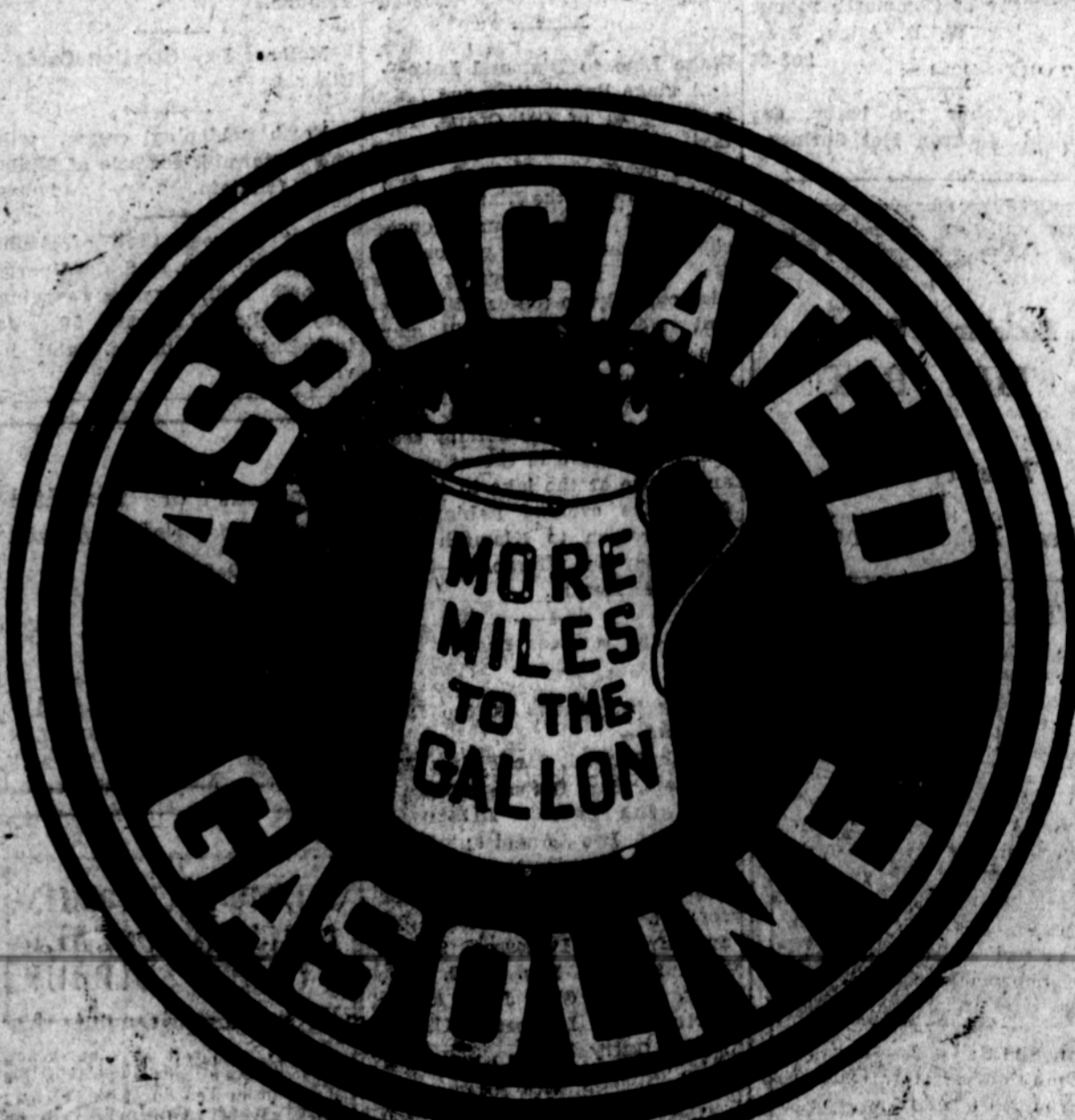
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