

Thursday, 2 February 1956

A brain is a wonderful thing - and it's absence in the head of a dizzy fool is a disgusting condition. Away went the forenoon - and then it was time to go to court for Mrs. Cline. Yesterday I told her we would have her case set for the afternoon. I would know by 9:30 a.m. the exact hour and would call her. Roth called her at 9:45 - 10:00 - 12:00 - not home. The woman who was at my office with her yesterday, Mrs. Mason (I believe) saw the message we asked the landlady to put on the door for her - and went to some club down town and picked her up. The two of them came into the upstairs hall of the Court House about 1:45. The case had been set for 1:30. The man from Silver Peak, who would be her residence witness for the period Nov. 7 to Dec. 24 - when she came to Reno - was not with them - and she had no money for costs. \$54.65 she was to bring. She thought I would advance the rest of the costs, as I did for \$38.15, and then after the decree is all signed by the Judge, she would tell me she did not have it. She might have even told me I could "take it out in trade" - because evidently she planned to get a divorce without paying me any fee at all - and having me pay her costs beside. But - she had no witness - so I vacated the setting - and we went to my office. I tried and tried to explain to her why we need a witness who saw her in Silver Peak before she came to Reno - no success. After each attempt she would pound my desk top and say - "But - I tell you! I have been in Nevada for three years! I have been right here in Reno for over 6 weeks now." I was never able to impress upon her we must have someone testify in court that she was in Nevada each and everyday for the 6 weeks

before we filed her case on Dec. 20th. That would be from Nov. 7 to Dec. 4 - while she was in Silver Peak - and from Dec. 4 to Dec. 20 in Reno. No success at all. She never did understand it. Then the fee. She said - over and over - "You told me yesterday all I had to pay you was \$54.65. Now you want me to sign a note for \$150.00. Yea Gods - \$150.00. Why I got my first divorce in Vegas for only \$75.00 complete - and you told me yesterday \$54.65. I could not get into her dumb head that \$54.65 all went to the Court - even though my sect. had itemized the entire thing - and Mrs. Cline had the paper in front of her. I could never get across to her that the \$54.65 did not leave me one red cent for my services. She kept saying - "\$150.00 - yea Gods - \$150.00 - and I could have gone to Sam Frankovich and got it for nothing - for absolutely nothing!" So I said - "Fine! - you can go to him now. I'll make you a present of the \$38.15 I have advanced for you." I called in my sect. - dictated a notice of withdrawal of counsel - gave the client a copy - and then went to the Court House and filed it. The dizzy Blonde went her way - and I hope to God the dumb idiot never again steps across the threshold of my office door.

Writing Class was short this evening - no stories were read. New and old students were introduced around and the Prof. gave the new students an outline of the course and what we try to accomplish. I handed in the first installment of "For Love or Money." As I left, Mrs. Lawrence walked down the stairs with me. She said - "Oh - by the way, I am going with a doctor now. I have asked him to observe me closely, and see if he finds me the same sort of person you did!"