

THE NEWS
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MURRAY HILL 2-1234

June 16, 1943

Dear Bill Berry,

If I can stop laughing over your hilarious letter, I may be able to send some of the information you request. Your "Mrs. Milton Rockefeller" no doubt is Mrs. David Milton. She is the former Abby Rockefeller and is a daughter of John D. Rockefeller Jr. If she is getting a divorce, it's a wow of a story. The Rockefellers, at least that branch, marry conservatively and marry for keeps. If it is Abby Rockefeller Milton, you will have to work carefully. The clan shies from publicity like a kid from a plate of spinach. If necessary, once she gets there and you have her identified, I can call Mr. Parrish of the Ivy Lee outfit who handle all Rockefeller public relations. I'd rather not do this if I can help it because they make simultaneous announcements to all papers and there's always a chance that an afternoon paper will get it first.

I have just sent out to the library for pictures of her and if we have any will send you a copy to help identification.

John D. Rockefeller's only daughter, Abby became the bride of ~~John~~ David Meriwether Milton, then a young lawyer, on May 14, 1925. Young Milton was comparatively poor. He had twice defended Abby in court on speeding charges and got the charges dismissed. And so they were married. The ceremony took place in the Rockefeller home at 10 West 54th St. and there were 1,200 guests at the reception which followed. It was a Baptist wedding ceremony but the Rockefellers got the officiating minister to omit the word obey, customary in such a ceremony.

Haven't any recent pix of Abby but am having the picture department check with A.P. and other photo services to see if we can dig any up. Will airmail you copies as soon as I can locate any.

You can assure her attorney that for all the Rockefellers know, the story comes from this end. If he doesn't realize it already, you'd better not let him know how hepped they are against publicity of any kind. The story is bigger and better than the Astor divorce. I do hope that the Mrs. Milton Rockefeller is actually Mrs. David Milton.

We are interested in any other angles you have on the McLean divorce. We used a piece on deCoppet presence in Reno. Not surprised that Eve Brown is looking for aid in Reno after the wonderful series of stuff you have been shooting to The News. I hope she doesn't find anybody too efficient.

Loved your account of the home of the Beavers. Will hold for your release. And keep away from 8-year-olds with lassoes!

Sincerely,

Frances Kilkenney
Frances Kilkenney
"Nancy Randolph"