

FRED R. EVERETT
LAWYER
2 NISBETT BLOCK
BIG RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

December 27, 1943

Mr. Harry I. Spooner
812 Bigelow
Peoria, 5, Illinois

My dear Mr. Spooner:

I have yours of the 23rd inst., and I believe you did not acknowledge receipt of the testimony before and I am glad to know that you received it.

I also note that you are making some progress in getting the matter written up but you ask me for some dates concerning the several trials in connection with this particular matter.

Your first question is whether Perny & Worcester represented Lee and Herman Dudgeon and Robert Bennett in the trial at Big Rapids in January, 1923. In answer to that I advise you that they did and that was the trial that was declared to be a mis-trial. This was also the first trial that these three persons had had, as I recall it. Following that and in the summer of 1923, as I recall it, the case against Lee and Herman Dudgeon and Robert Bennett was tried at Hart in Oceana County in this State. We were about three weeks trying that case. On that occasion Robert Bennett and Herman were acquitted and Lee was convicted of manslaughter. After that we appealed his case to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court reversed the decision of the lower Court and Lee was discharged and acquitted. Subsequent to that, as I believe I told you before, Mrs. Dudgeon, whose conviction before that time was reversed by the Supreme Court when we took the case over and appealed it to that Court, was again tried in Newaygo County and the jury disagreed and finally that case was dismissed and was never re-tried.

I am unable to give you the exact date of the trial against the State Police but my own judgment is that it was sometime

FRED R. EVERETT
LAWYER
2 NISBETT BLOCK
BIG RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Page Two

in 1924. It was commenced in Newaygo County and did not finally come to trial and was dismissed through some technicality, as I recall it.

I trust that this gives you the additional information that is desired and that you will finally be able to get the story written up so that it will be worth your while and as I told you previously, I would be glad to have a copy of the magazine in which you have your story printed.

I wish to extend to you also, my wish for a Happy New Year.

Yours very truly



Fred R. Everett

PRE:VJH

FRED R. EVERETT
LAWYER
2 NISBETT BLOCK
BIG RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Page three

So far as Meda Hodell is concerned, that case has been tried and she was convicted before Mr. Wetmore and myself became associated with the cases and the court had not made any error in the trial of that case and for that reason we did not have any ground on which to appeal the same to the Supreme Court. However, I agree with you that Mrs. Meda Hodell was unjustly convicted. The last I knew of it, however, she was still confined or at least connected with the House of Corrections but was somewhat of a trusty and free agent. A few years ago I made some inquiries about it and I was informed that she was not very anxious to be released.

If you want the testimony that I have, kindly advise me and I will send it to you probably by express with the understanding, as I have already stated, about your returning it to me as soon as you have finished with it.

Awaiting your further pleasure, I remain,

Yours very truly


Fred R. Everett

FRE:VJH