

# Divorce was once big news of day

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On a "slow" news day, the *Evening World* detailed two divorces under the big, attention-getting headline which read "Mismatched Couples Seek Separation." Apart from the fact that the headline constituted an editorial judgment on the part of the person who wrote it, the article, itself, would, by standards today, have been a gross violation of the privacy of the persons involved.

IN THE FIRST CASE the wife stated that after her first filing for divorce, her husband, "sought her and by promises and inducements, was able to obtain her consent to dismiss the case against him . . ." He furthermore had agreed to give her \$10 of his \$20 — \$25 weekly salary. He failed to pay the agreed sum, bought a farm three miles from town, and ordered her to leave his home and "never live with him again."

On the other hand, another case involved children, whom their mother alleged, were not being supported by their father. All she requested was custody of the children. That particular item was surrounded on the front page by a murder investigation, an Indiana University professor's out-of-town speaking engagement, a Breeden's department store advertisement and a long news story about the collection of cast-off clothing to be sent to "clothe the near-naked and destitute of the Bible lands of the Near East . . ."

Nor were the final settlements of divorce cases left to the imaginations of the readers of the *Evening World*. In one case the division of property read as follows: she got the "real estate and five cows," and he got "his blacksmith tools, automobile and one cow."