

# THE COW THAT RAN WILD

The Evening Herald, Syracuse, NY, Wednesday, January 27, 1904

MISS ARENA ELLMER SUES FOR THE INJURY IT DID HER.

BEAST BELONGING TO JULIUS RABINOWITZ CREATED HAVOC ON CITY STREET \_ "HOOKED ME, BUNKED ME, PAWED ME AND TORE ME ALL UP," SAYS THE PLAINTIFF.

Arena Ellmer told a County court jury this morning how she was attacked by Julius Rabinowitz's mad cow that went on a rampage through the streets on March 19<sup>th</sup>. She had the encounter with the spotted cow at Veteran park after she had come from the theater. Miss Elmer works at the Onondaga House. She asks \$2,000 damages for her injuries. She is a Canadian. After the attack she went home and was sick abed for six weeks.

Asked to describe the cow, Miss Ellmer said the animal was "awful mad," but the answer was stricken out.

"She bunked me," said Miss Ellmer. "She tore me all up, tore my legs up and bruised me all over."

"What did the cow do to you?" asked Roscoe W. R. Wilcox on direct examination.

"She hooked me and pawed me all over. I was sore all over and the side of my head was torn open."

On cross-examination by William Rubin, for the defendant, Miss Ellmer said she was sick abed for three days and then she went to the "ospital," where she remained about three weeks. After that she went back home.

Miss Ellmer, telling again of the accident, said to Mr. Rubin:

"I heard some one shout, 'Look out for the wild cow.' The cow was coming down Warren street from the bridge. She was about ten feet away from me. I turned around and looked at her and I says to the friend who was with me," 'Look out for the wild cow.' And the cow was coming toward him. I started to run toward Salina street."

But Mr. Rubin did not go into the details and Miss Ellmer left the witness stand.

SHEA DODGED

William Shea, who was walking with Miss Ellmer, next testified. He said she was taken to a drug store, where she was unconscious, then she was removed to her rooms. He said the first he saw the cow was when the animal bumped against him.

"I had just time to dodge against the fence and the cow shot by me," said Shea.

Officer John Cummings told of the police's efforts to capture the animal, how a telephone request came for ropes and the pursuit of the animal by the patrol.

"I didn't get close to her until she was captured," said the officer.

"What's the matter; couldn't you?" asked Mr. Wilcox.

"We were about a hundred feet behind. I was warning people to look out for her," was the reply.

"Did she appear ugly or vicious?"

"Coming down the street she was."

On cross-examination the officer conceded that it was safer to pursue the animal.

Charles Skiff, a farmer with ninety head of cattle made the bargain with Rabinowitz and the latter's man paid the money. It was a red and white cow, weighing 1,000 pounds. He had raised the cow and it was her first experience in the city.

"The cow had never been alone any length of time?"

"No, sir," Mr. Skiff replied.

When the men came they took two cows away but one twice eluded them and went back to Skiff's and the men had to return for her.

#### EXPORT TESTIMONY ON COWS

Jerome Cooper, who had handled cattle for fifty years, was the next witness. He said if cattle are driven into the city they should be hobbled, by all means.

As an expert he said that cattle taken from a herd would become excited and might go mad, especially in a city where they see so much.

Officer Callahan helped to get the cow out of Doctor Fischer's house, at least he was one of the party up there. A butcher with a lantern was in the group. The cow was found in the house and when she turned the man with the lantern slammed the door and left Callahan alone with the cow. Callahan said he started for the lavatory with the cow in close pursuit. He tried to escape but there was no door and he turned and faced the cow in the dark, grabbing her by the horns and shoving past her. When Callahan had told this much the Court and spectators laughed heartily. Callahan said that as he escaped by one door the cow came out the front door, went down the steps and down the street.

"Did you find the cow friendly?" asked Mr. Wilcox.

"Perhaps she wanted to get acquainted with my red hair," the officer replied.

## THE DEATH OF THE COW

George Sherman, bartender at the Kingsley House, where the cow was taken after capture, completed the story, saying that the cow was killed there as she could not be led away.

Judge Ross denied the motion for a nonsuit and Mr. Rubin opened the defense when a recess was taken to afternoon. He said the cow was frightened by a train while coming into town and got away from the men. Mr. Rubin said the cow was scared by people on the street and driven about by children and that it was out of the defendant's possession that time.