

"DIAMOND LIL" FOUND IN CELL; KEEPS SILENCE

Refuses to Tell of Whoopie Parties.

"Diamond Lil," Peoria black and tan resort keeper, who was carried on the sanitary district pay rolls under the name of Lillian Knox during the whoopie days of Timothy J. Crowe's presidency, was found yesterday in Joliet penitentiary by Assistant State's Attorney Harold Keela. She still has twelve diamonds, each of a carat or more, set in her upper teeth.

The story of any whoopie parties on the part of some of the district pay rollers, who padded expense accounts by charging for trips to Beardstown and Peoria, is a closed book so far as "Diamond Lil" is concerned. She refused to discuss any of the doings at her resort, "The Oasis," prior to her sentence to 14 years in prison for a murder committed in the resort. She was convicted with Jonie Yelm, bouncer at the resort, in the killing on Jan. 21 of Joseph Market, alleged bootlegger. She is held in the prison under the name of Paralee McNeal.

She Refuses to Talk.

"That is my business and the book is closed," said "Diamond Lil" when questioned about parties alleged to have taken place in her resort.

"The sanitary district? Why, I never heard of it; I don't know anything about it," she replied when asked about being a pay roller. However, First Assistant State's Attorney John E. Northup, who has charge of the prosecution, said that he frequently ran across Diamond Lil while investigating the pay rollers' whoopie parties. His assistants say they are sure that the Lillian Knox of Peoria, listed on the pay roll at \$300 a month as a law department investigator, is Diamond Lil.

Story of Diamond Lil.

Diamond Lil made her appearance in Peoria in July, 1921. She didn't stay long, however, because within a week she was sent back to Toledo, O., to answer a larceny charge. She returned to Peoria after the charge was dropped and opened up the Oasis. Her place was known as the largest and liveliest black and tan resort in that part of the state. Her police record shows that she used the name of Mrs. Lillian Guyette by virtue of her marriage to a Peoria butcher. She also is listed under the names of Mabel Walker and Lillian Diamond.

She started her collection of diamonds in Detroit back in 1913. When arrested for street soliciting at that time she had four diamonds set in white gold and platinum in her teeth. As she accumulated wealth in Peoria from her resort she added diamonds to her collection.

She is now 50-years old, gray haired, and inclined to be stout.

Prosecutor Northup indicated that in view of the prisoner's attitude and the fact that she is in the penitentiary he probably would be unable to use her as a witness.

The prosecution will resume the trial of Crowe and seven former associates tomorrow morning with introduction of testimony on the \$1,000,000 cinder bridge path adjoining the north shore channel road. Prosecutor Northup said that he would show by engineers that the legitimate cost of the path should not have exceeded \$300,000.

Lawrence C. O'Brien, former state representative who is now serving a term at Leavenworth penitentiary for income tax evasion, is expected to be one of the state witnesses on the bridge path angle of the case. Prosecutor Northup said he would try to arrange with the federal authorities to have O'Brien brought back from the penitentiary long enough to put him on the witness stand.

O'Brien, through his teaming concern, was paid large sums of money by the district for the hauling of cinders to the bridge path. It was part of this money, which figured in his hidden income, which resulted in his penitentiary sentence.