

MRS. DODGE ADMITS NECKLACE IS HERS

**Detroit Manufacturer Paid Car-
tier \$825,000 for the Pearls
in May, 1920.**

EXECUTOR GIVES DETAILS

**Issues Statement to Controvert
Report That Purchase Price
Was \$1,500,000.**

Special to The New York Times.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 19.—That Mrs. Horace E. Dodge has the famous pearl necklace said to have been the property of Catherine II. of Russia, was established today when Howard B. Bloomer, executor of Mr. Dodge's estate, issued a statement and made public a letter to Cartier, the jeweler from whom the necklace was purchased. Mr. Bloomer's statement follows:

"Upon my return to the city this morning my attention has been called to the publicity given to the suit brought by V. and L. Benguiat against Cartier, Inc., of New York, in reference to the purchase price of the pearl necklace purchased by the late Horace E. Dodge from Cartier, Inc., and because I feel that in justice to Cartier, Inc., statements in reference to this matter appearing in the press should be accurate, I wish to say that the late Horace E. Dodge purchased the necklace in question as a present for Mrs. Dodge from Cartier, Inc., during the month of May, 1920, and that the purchase price was \$825,000, and I have today given to Cartier, Inc., a letter, a copy of which is enclosed, which letter you are permitted to publish."

The letter to Cartier, Inc., under today's date, reads as follows:

"While in New York yesterday my attention was called to the publicity that has occurred as an incident to the suit between V. & L. Benguiat and yourselves in reference to the pearl necklace sold by your company to the late Horace E. Dodge in the month of May, 1920, and, upon my return to the city this morning, I learned that the Detroit papers have also given considerable publicity to the subject and that statements in the papers charge that your company received \$1,500,000 as the purchase price of the necklace from Mr. Dodge.

"In order, therefore, that you may have evidence other than your own statements on the subject of the price of the necklace, I beg to say that I am the executor of the estate of Horace E. Dodge, and that the records of the estate show that Mr. Dodge purchased the necklace from you during the month of May, 1920, and that you billed same to him by invoice dated May 24, 1920, the purchase price being \$825,000, which purchase price was paid to you now in my possession as executor of the estate and being available to you at any time when needed as evidence in the lawsuit.

"I very much regret the publicity that has been given to the family of Mr. Dodge through this matter, but realize that the publicity is doubtless as distasteful to you as it is to them and feel that you should have my assurance that the evidence as to the real price will be forthcoming from us at any time you may desire same."

A Detroit authority on jewels Thursday expressed doubt that the pearls owned by Mrs. Dodge are the original Catherine II. pearls. He said that it would be most unusual for a string of pearls to be handed down from one generation to another without restringing, additions, substitutions and other changes.

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