

Girl Lives 13 Years as Man and Has Two Wives

LEAVES FIRST CHOICE TO WED PRETTIER GIRL

By Idah McGlone Gibson

MILWAUKEE, Wis., May 12.—“Did this woman, as far as you know, wear male attire for immoral purposes? Did you ever see her do anything vulgar?” asked the judge in the case of “disorderly conduct” brought against Cora Anderson, who, until last week, as Ralph Kerwinio, had worn men’s clothes and posed as a man for 13 years.

“No.”
“While in male attire how did she act?” the judge continued.

“Like a PERFECT GENTLEMAN,” was the policeman’s answer, much to the amusement of the spectators who filled the police courtroom in Milwaukee.

And this is the verdict of almost every third man in the city who knew Ralph Kerwinio well and never for a moment suspected that “he” was a woman.

After hearing many more witnesses, Judge Page could not find the charge sustained and this “girl-man” who sat so composedly through the trial was allowed to go free with the command that she should resume her woman’s dress in the future.

This is the end of one the strangest cases of double life that has ever been written.

THIRTEEN years ago two girls who had studied to be nurses at the Provident hospital, Chicago, found out how hard it is for a woman (especially a woman with a dark skin) to make an honest living, and decided to double up and form a home. Cora Anderson, looking the Indian she says she is, thin, straight, was to pose as the husband and Marie White, plump, pretty and feminine, was to be the wife.

“We did this,” says Cora Anderson, the husband, “for financial as well as moral reasons.

“As girls working outside the home we had been subjected to all sorts of overtures from all kinds and conditions of men. If I assumed men’s clothes I would be better able to obtain work and as a ‘man’ I could protect my ‘wife’ from insult.

“The compact was entered into as unthinkingly as most marriages are.

“We wanted to live honest lives and become respected citizens of the community.

“We started this masquerade in Cleveland, O., and for a while I was bellboy at the Hollendon hotel. Then we came to Milwaukee and I entered the Plankinton as bellboy. We furnished a little flat, and to the world we were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kerwinio.

“No one at the hotels ever suspected me.

“In a short time I thought of myself as a man, and it never entered my mind that I was any different than the men about me with whom I laughed, joked, worked and played my part.

“I have always done a man’s work, and I think in most cases I have done it better than the men about me.”

This statement was confirmed by all “Raph’s” different employers.

Manufacturer Cutler said:

“Ralph was the best MAN I ever had at work for me. And the men with whom ‘he’ worked at this store made up a purse of \$65 for ‘him’ and one of them went on ‘his’ bail when ‘he’ got into trouble.”

How did the secret leak out after all these years?

The “marriage” began to grow a little irksome to both the young women.

Marie White thought she saw her “husband” growing coarser.

“I felt it was time she had again the refining influence of skirts,” she said.

Cora Anderson (Ralph Kerwinio), on the contrary, become more and more mannish. She frequented the poolrooms and barber shops and other places where men congregate. It was whispered that “Ralph” had a flirtation now and then.

ABOUT six months ago things came to a climax, and after a bitter quarrel “Ralph” left home and started boarding at another place.

Afterward in one of “his” visits to a dance hall “he” met Dorothy Klenowski, very pretty and very blonde.

“It was love at first sight on my part,” says Dorothy, “and we became engaged. I grew tired of the life at home and told ‘Ralph’ he must marry me at once or it was all off. ‘He’ went out and PROCURED the CERTIFICATE REQUIRED by the EUGENIC LAW and we were married by Edward J. Burke, justice of the peace.

“I did not know until just before ‘Ralph’ was arrested that he was not a man and it almost broke my heart, but I determined to stand by ‘him’ and be ‘his’ chum if I couldn’t be his wife.”

“Miss Marie White told my employer my secret in revenge for my leaving the house,” said “Ralph,” but my employer was game and never gave the story away for two months—until Miss White, finding my employer was not going to do anything, tipped it off to the police.

“But no one can find that I have done anything wrong.”

“It was love at first sight on my part and we became engaged. I grew tired of life at home and told ‘Ralph’ he must marry me at once or it was all off. ‘He’ told me he had a secret he would tell me after marriage and ‘he’ went out and procured the certificate required by the eugenic law, and on the 24th of March we were married. I did not know until just before ‘Ralph’ was arrested that ‘he’ was not a man, and it almost broke my heart, but I determined to stand by ‘him’ and be ‘his’ chum if I couldn’t be his wife.”
—STATEMENT OF DOROTHY KLENOWSKI, CHILD-BRIDE, WOOD AND WON BY THE MAN-WOMAN.

GIRL WHO WORKED, LIVED AND LOVED AS A MAN



THREE POSES OF THE MAN-WOMAN — Cora Anderson as Ralph Kerwinio at left above, and as herself at right. In lower picture she is shown attired as a man, a garb she has affected for 13 years.

WILSON IS WORN OUT BY WORRY IN MEXICO FUSS

WASHINGTON, May 12.—A very heavy drain on President Wilson’s physical powers has been made by the trouble with Mexico. The president has taken this matter very much to heart and has lost a great deal of sleep.

He is under orders of Dr. Grayson to conserve his physical powers in every possible way.

A tent in the backyard, in which he spends much of his time, is one hygienic feature.

An important result of the president’s great care for his health is his increasing isolation. He sees fewer people every day.

WITNESSES RETELL STORY OF SHOOTING IN BECKER TRIAL

NEW YORK, May 12.—“Bald Jack” Rose took the stand before noon today at the trial of Former Police Lieutenant Charles F. Becker, charged with slaying Herman Rosenthal.

Becker watched Rose closely throughout his testimony.

Rose recited the story of his alleged negotiations with Becker, ex-

the car around and wait. The cops are fixed. Becker fixed ‘em. Everything’s all right.”

FIGHTS UNSEEN ENEMIES; DIES

Frank Hadavis, 55, an insane

NO TRACE FOUND OF AUTOIST WHO SLEW PHYSICIAN

The mystery of the death of Dr. L. H. Redon, Seattle physician, who died early Monday morning from wounds received when struck down by an automobile Friday midnight at the entrance of the alleyway in the rear of the Henry building, probably will go down in the list of unsolved auto killings in Seattle.

A vigorous investigation, conducted by the police since the discovery of his unconscious body, has come to naught.

The coroner’s inquest in the case was held this morning in the Bonney-Watson undertaking parlors.

Only a meager hope was held that new evidence would be unearthed.

The Rev. E. V. Shayler will read the funeral services for Dr. Redon tomorrow afternoon, 12:30 o’clock, at St. Mark’s Episcopal church.

WATER SHUT-OFF NOTICE

Water will be shut off on Lucile and Findlay sts., east of 46th av. S., Walker st., from 46th av. S. to 52nd av. S., on Meade st. from 51st av. S. to 51st av. S.

FIREMEN HAVE CLOSE CALL IN \$100,000 FIRE

Fire that started on the top floor of the Gottstein furniture store, 1514-16 Second av., some time during the night, this morning totally destroyed the furniture stock in the store room on that floor and caused a heavy damage from water to the stock on the lower floors before it was gotten under control.

The damage to building and furniture will reach about \$100,000, partially covered by insurance.

The building, itself considerably damaged in the upper stories, is valued at \$100,000, of which 85% is covered by insurance.

Stock Valued at \$110,000

The value of the Gottstein stock is approximately \$110,000, 90% covered by insurance. Furniture stored on the upper floor was practically wiped out while the water damage below was heavy.

Helen Igoe’s shop for women and the Keating Millinery shop, both on the ground floor, were flooded.

The Igoe stock, valued at from \$50,000 to \$60,000, with an unknown amount of insurance, was about 75% damaged.

Origin Is Unknown

The Keating stock, valued at \$15,000, was largely saved because it was enclosed in wooden waterproof show cases.

The fire’s origin is unknown. Starting in the excelsior packing, it is thought it smoldered several hours until this morning, when suffocating fumes were found throughout the building.

An alarm was sounded at 8 o’clock.

Burning varnish and smoke from furniture-packing made it impossible for the firemen to enter the building for some time.

Fight Fire From Roofs

As the fire gained headway, flames belched from the front and mounted skyward. The heat was felt across the street.

The firemen made flank attacks from the roof of Wilson’s Business college, adjoining, but progress was slow, and at 9 o’clock it was feared the whole building would go.

Not until 9:30 were the flames under control.

Firemen Are Injured

Two firemen were injured by the showers of glass that crashed down from the shattered windows.

One sustained a laceration in the leg and one’s nose was broken.

Lieut. Pat O’Conner, standing on one of the fire escapes over Second av., was struck by a stream of water and bowled over.

He saved himself by grasping the railing of the escape on the floor below.

WELL, WELL, IF HERE ISN'T OUR GOOD OLD FRIEND, THE JUDGE!

Summer is coming. The birdies chirp in the trees. Hear the crickets cricketing, and the green grass grows all around.

Vacation will soon be here. And Judge Humphries has gone into training for his summer monologues.

His first effusion doesn’t cover the marathon distance for which the judge is noted, but it has some of his other well known qualities.

“Without egotism,” spake the judge yesterday, “I may say that I am as good a lawyer as there is in the state.”

With that as the major premise, the judge proceeded to elucidate thusly:

“There are lots of lawyers who don’t know hell from gee, and there are judges who don’t know anything either, but that is due to their own neglect.

“There is one royal way for poverty to raise its head to ease and success, and that is by steady self-improvement and labor. I have made the trip and I know. I commenced in poverty, worked hard, drove oxen, cut wood, taught school and practiced law. I have \$15,000 worth of books today. Nobody ever gave me any money, and I never borrowed a dollar in my life. Now, that’s a good record for a poor boy.”

Further hizzoner sayeth not.

NEW ORDINANCE BARS GIRLS UNDER 18 FROM DANCES

Girls under 18, unless properly accompanied by chaperons, will not be admitted into any public or club dance after this.

The council passed the dance ordinance Monday afternoon, including the above provision.

Another clause provides that permits for dances, either single or serial dances, must first be obtained from the police department.

NEW FACTORY TO OPEN HERE

Work on a reinforced concrete building, which will be used by the Chappel-Perkins Belting Co., recently incorporated, will commence immediately. The structure is located at 4765 Ballard av. and will be ready for occupancy June 15.

FLOOD AVERTED

FAIRBANKS, May 12.—Fairbanks was saved from a serious flood yesterday by the breaking of the ice jam in the Chena river. The ice piled up to a height of 25 feet, causing the water to overflow the lower