

STORY OF WOMAN

"FATHER" OF FAMILY

"Mr." Gaffney Tells How "He" Came to Woo, Win and Marry "Margaret"

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 19.—"Robert" A. Gaffney, a woman, who four years has been the husband and father of a large family here, today gave "his" reasons why "he" married Mrs. Margaret Gaffney.

"I wanted to befriend her," said "Robert." "She was poor and friendless when we met. She had three children and was unable to earn enough to support them."

She is in a strange predicament today is "Mr." Gaffney. After 18 years of masquerading as a man, "his" sex has been found out and "he" occupies alone, the juvenile ward at the county jail, convicted under the state "lazy husband" law.

The woman "he" married in Spokane four years ago is at liberty.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Palmer has her case under advisement. It is a penal offense, he says, in this state for a woman to "marry" another woman. But he admits the case of "Mr." Gaffney has many extenuating circumstances.

"Robert" Gaffney explained in detail to a reporter just how it all happened.

"I had been wearing men's clothes for years before I met Margaret," "he" said. "I wore trousers because they were more convenient. Then, too, men's garb helped me to get work that I could not get otherwise. By trade I am a carpenter and finisher. People do not want women carpenters. So I wore men's clothing.

"When I met Margaret, she was in need. We liked each other and I told her I would help her until she could get her children adopted and find some means of support for herself.

If we were to live together, as we decided we must, to cut down expenses, you can readily see why we married. People would have talked about us had we not.

"As time went on, Margaret did not find places for her children. Our compact was broken by her. I was working in the Colman building as foreman of janitors.

"I quit my position and left her. When my support was cut off, she had me arrested as a 'lazy husband,' and the truth became known."

"Robert" Gaffney easily deceived those with whom "he" met as to "his" sex. To the most critical eye "he" looks like a man. "His" conversation shows "he" reasons like a man. "But "his" voice betrays "him." It is high pitched.

"I want to tell you I know men," "he" declared. "That is why I married Margaret. A man might have befriended her the way I did. But he wouldn't have stuck to her. He would have remained only during the brief time his passion lasted—and no longer.

"It makes little difference about me now, that the truth is known. People with whom I have associated all my life will consider me out of their class. I have no class now. I'm merely flotsam.

"But 10 years ago," "he" declared proudly "I was a pretty good looking woman, if I do say it myself."

Mrs. Gaffney, who runs a rooming house tells a somewhat different story. She says she did not know she was marrying a woman for some months after the wedding. In fact, she says, she never was certain of it until "Robert" herself, told her.

"He was away nights," said Mrs. Gaffney, "working. He slept in daytime, and I was forbidden to enter his room. I was suspicious of his sex and once accused him of being a woman but he grew so angry about it that I never mentioned it again."

"Robert" Gaffney was convicted as "lazy husband" and sentenced to the county stockade.

"I would have gone," "he" said, "but the work, I know would be too hard for me."