

SEATTLE'S FEMININE PROSECUTOR SAYS THERE IS PLACE FOR WOMEN LAWYERS

MISS RHEA WHITEHEAD ADMITS, HOWEVER, HER SEX IS HANDICAPPED IN PROFESSION.



MISS RHEA WHITEHEAD AS SHE APPEARS IN HER ROLE OF PROSECUTING OFFICER

SEATTLE, Dec. 12.—(Special.)—"Ambition? Yes, lots of it."
 "Would I prosecute a woman?"
 "Yes, but I'd hate to do it."
 "If every deputy and the head prosecutor were busy and it remained for you to take up the prosecution of a murder, what would you do?"
 "I would go in and do the best I know how, and I believe that I would win."
 "If I saw there was no chance to win I probably would go out and hire a deputy to take the case. I wouldn't go to that extreme, however, unless I thought that the public good demanded it."
 King County's new Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, a woman, Miss Rhea Whitehead, who gives her age as 25—her mother says 24, "because," as she naively remarks, "I'd ought to know"—today said that she thought there was a place for women as lawyers, but admitted that prosecuting cases didn't come up to the standard of defending the downtrodden.

"I can't tell you whether I'll be a success as a prosecutor, and I really hope that I am not called upon to take up any great cases in the Superior Court, but I am sure that if I am left to take care of cases which involve cruelty in Justice Courts I'll make a success. When I'm older in the law maybe I'll not mind going in for murder trials and all the other big things."
 Miss Whitehead is winsome. She should make a hit with a jury any time. And it is recorded that once she did. Not long ago she had a case of cruelty to animals in Justice Court. She won there, and the case was appealed. She won in the Superior Court.

That's about as far as her court practice has gone, but she has been the confidential clerk of the prosecuting attorney's office for a number of years, and it is further recorded that she has made a good one.
 Miss Whitehead graduated from the law school at the University of Washington in 1905 and was admitted to the bar the same year. Formerly she was a stenographer, and, as she says, "I felt that if I had to work in lawyers' offices all my life I might as well know something about the business. My mother encouraged me. She has been my guardian angel all the time. I went to law school for two years, and then to day law school for a year."
 "No, when it comes right down to it," said Miss Whitehead, looking really serious, "I don't think women are fitted naturally or by education for prosecutors. You see, there are so many distasteful things that I don't want to do. I don't like to tackle the business at times."
 "Men prosecutors have to browbeat witnesses sometimes to force the truth from them. I don't want to do that before I start in what I'll do, but ambition is strong and romance, which you seem to look for, is scarcely to be thought of."

Miss Whitehead, apparently preoccupied with the thought suggested to her of facing a real desperado on the stand, made a pass at her back comb, readjusted it to a normal condition, straightened out a few locks that had worked themselves out of position, and resumed.
 "Now, don't get the idea that just because I have said that I would prefer to take up cruelty cases in Justice Court that I have no ambition to become something greater than a Police Court lawyer."
 "I really would rather take charge of just the cruelty cases. I admit that that doesn't seem very ambitious, but maybe you never thought that white prosecuting on cruelty cases you are defending at the same time persons and animals that have no chance otherwise. Just what my duties will be cannot be told at this time. That is all up to Mr. Vandever, the Prosecuting Attorney who appointed me. What my conceptions of the position are cannot be told, because Mr. Vandever has not told me what I am to do. What I might want to do and what he wants me to do might be different."

"I think there is a place in this world for lawyers for women, but necessarily women lawyers. I don't expect to be forever in the Prosecuting Attorney's office, and when I leave it I want to reach the top rung of the ladder."
 "Of course I admit that in the law business women are greatly handicapped. Women have no chance to make the laws or to select judges. Men are inclined to look with disfavor upon women who take up the professions, but if more stenographers would take up law as I have done there wouldn't be so much excuse for talk of woman's inferiority to men in the professions."
 "Lots of girls know law, and know it as well or better than their bosses, but somehow they don't seem to go any farther than keeping it to themselves."
 "When you get out of the Prosecuting Attorney's office what do you expect to do?"
 "Practice law."
 "Would you take all kinds of cases?"
 "No, I wouldn't. I want to have a practice that will be of my own choosing."
 "Supposing a man would come to you and ask you to take a case of divorce. What would you do?"
 "Miss Whitehead whirled in the swivel office chair and looked worried for just a minute. Something went wrong with

her back comb again. Her natty blue skirt suddenly seemed to be all covered with dust. She brushed all kinds of imaginary flecks from her shirtwaist, immaculately clean and white. There was a struggle between commercialism and womanhood.
 "I'd look at the fee first," she exclaimed. "If I didn't have a meal ticket—well, I'll tell you one thing. No man could come to me and get me to advise him in a divorce action if he made any serious attacks on the character of his wife."
 "You see, the practice of law is like any other profession. We all go in to make money. I really don't think I would care for men clients. I think I would prefer women."
 "Do you suppose that there is anything that could come between you and your love for the law?"
 "Not a thing," she said.
 "Supposing that you should get married?"
 "No danger," said Miss Whitehead. But it was apparent she didn't mean it. Color came to her cheeks and she looked confused.
 "I don't have to worry over that," she said. "I'm in a fair way to make my own living. I know there are lots of women who are compelled to marry because there is no other way of facing the world's music. But I assure you there will never be a meal ticket waiting for me." And Miss Whitehead looked as though she believed her future was assured.
 "Marriage does make a difference, though," she admitted reflectively. "In

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attendance was very large and a pleased audience listened to the following programme: "Through the Clouds" (Joseph Hoffmann), Miss Jean McKechee; "Until You Came" (Metcalfe, P. S. Hickey); "The Boys' Story," Miss Hazel Hoopinger; "The Mysterious Mr. James L. Bell," solo (selected), Miss Ethel Hughes; "The Old Actor's Story," Daniel Quimby; (a) "The Winds Are Calling" (Roland), (b) "Because" (D'Hardelot), Miss Florence Foster; (c) "Der Bist Wie Eine Blume" (Chadwick), (d) "The Rose in the Garden" (Niedinger), Charles Brace; "Parla" (Arditi), Miss Kathleen Lawler; recitation (selected), Miss Anderson; (a) "Love, I Have Won You" (Ronald), (b) "An Arabian" (Caucchios), John Clairs Monteith.

Mrs. Harry C. Elliott, who was Miss Parsons, gave a reception at her home at 955 East Gilean street, on Thursday, December 2. The rooms were artistically decorated with pink and white chrysanthemums, ferns and shaded candles. Mrs. Elliott wore an Empire gown of cream silk with touches of spangled lace and green velvet.
 Pink carnations and ferns were used effectively in the dining-room, and

appointments of the tea table were especially artistic. Mrs. W. F. Amos presided in the dining-room, assisted by Miss Norma Reed. Mrs. Amos was gowned in brown silk, with lace and bands of blue and pink. Mrs. C. C. White, who received with Mrs. Elliott was in black with touches of turquoise.
 The Mispah Social Club met at the home of Mrs. Ward Armstrong, 27 East Ninth street, Thursday, December 2. Mrs. S. C. McCormick received the first prize at cards and Mrs. Bertha Perkins the second prize. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Ward Armstrong, president; Mrs. Greenwood, vice-president; Mrs. Haynes, Jr., secretary and treasurer. The club will meet January 21, 1907, at the home of Mrs. Ella Lombard, at 127 East Madison street and will celebrate her birthday at that date. The ladies present were Mesdames Armstrong, Bolding, Greenwood, Haynes, Jr., Kellogg, Lombard, Lincoln, Moore, McCormick, McVicker, Perkins, Parcell, Roadley, Shultz, Stipes, Thompson, Wilson, Williams, Wise and Greenwood, Jr.

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Order of Elks, which occurred last Sunday afternoon at the Taylor-street Methodist church, was especially notable from a musical standpoint. The programme was under the direction of J. Claire Monteith. A quartet, consisting of Mrs. Rose Bloch-Bauer, Miss Ethel Shea, William Boyer and J. Claire Monteith, sang, while John Boone presided at the organ. Among the numbers which attracted most favorable comment were "When Power Divine," by Faure-Shelly, Mrs. Bauer's solo, "I Will Give You Rest," Mr. Monteith's solo, "Abide With Me" and Mr. Boone's organ solo. Mr. Boone is a newcomer to Portland and is at present organist at Centenary Church.

On Sunday afternoon a pleasing programme was given for the entertainment of the young women and girls belonging to the Sisters of Mercy Home, on Sixteenth street, near Couch, by the Catholic Women's League of Portland. A permanent organization of this league will be entered into and officers elected at a meeting called for Saturday, January 23. At present Rev. Father O'Hara is acting president. A domestic arts department will be conducted in connection with other departments. The programme was as follows: Miss Cornelia Barker, violin (Berceuse, Jocelyn); Miss Millie Perkins, song, "The Return (Millard)"; Miss Rose Philip, recitation, with violin obligato, by Miss Barker. The accompanist was Miss M. H. Flynn.

On Tuesday evening I. G. Dorr and his daughter, Mrs. Laura Smith, were tendered a surprise party at their home, 822 Northwick street. The evening was spent with story-telling and cards. Prizes at 500 were won by Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Chamberlain. The guests included: Mr. and Mrs. Solenburgh, Mr. and Mrs. Sebring, Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, Mr. and Mrs. James, Mr. and Mrs. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Mickle, Mrs. Pfendres, Mrs. Courter, Mrs. Buttkofer and Daisy Smith.

A pleasant surprise was given Mrs. Fred Peltan at her home, 54 Sherrett avenue, Sellwood, Thursday afternoon by members of the Mount Hood Circle, Woodmen of the World. Progressive games were played. Mrs. Howe won first prize and Mrs. Shepherd the consolation prize. Those enjoying Mrs. Peltan's hospitality were Mesdames Kruger, Fagg, Howe, Shepherd, Warden, Richardson, Dell, Watson, Brandt, Shields, Carl, Frazier, Bransham, Dar-

ling, Knapp, Dryden, Routledge, Murbe and Willis.

The ladies of Laurelwood Hive, No. 55, Ladies of the Maccabees of the World, met December 4 at the Woodman Hall, at Arleta, and held their election of officers for 1907, resulting in Lady Farrell talking, P. S. C.; Lady Marshall, L. C.; Lady Hayes, Jr., L. C.; Lady Collins, L. R. K.; Lady Briggs, L. F. A.; Lady Grabel, L. Chaplain; Lady Steomb, L. Sergeant; Lady Brouse, L. M. of A.; Lady Thompson, L. Sent; Lady Buckley, L. picket. D. S. C. Lady Alice Forges was out of the city.

La Gale Douzaine 500 Club was entertained at the home of Miss Peris Hillings, 67 Kearney street, last Monday evening. Miss Della Woods made the highest score at cards. Those present were Mesdames Della Woods, Edith Bern, Ruby Gilbough, Laura Vanhorn, Era Stricker, Isabel Gilbough, Peris Hillings, Lilla Winters, Bertha Brehaut, Lena Stanley, Mrs. Louis Allenhoff and

Mrs. Elias H. Soule. This will be the last meeting of the club until after the holidays.

The last meeting of the year for the George Wright Relief Corps was held at their hall on Wednesday. The attendance was large and the afternoon was spent in sewing. Aprons, quilts and fancy-work articles were completed and everything is now in readiness for the annual bazaar and supper, which will be held in the hall in the Western Academy of Music on Friday evening, December 15.

The Shakespeare class conducted by Julia La Barre held its regular meeting on Thursday at the home of Mrs. C. M. Kiggins. The final meeting of the year will be with Mrs. La Barre at 118 Taggart street, Thursday, December 17, when it is hoped all will be present. Especial business will be transacted.

The year at the home of Lady Swan, commander of Golden Rule Hive, Tuesday, December 8. An interesting programme had been prepared and the following officers were elected to serve six months: President, Lady Elizabeth Hyde, vice-president, Lady Ella Manning; secretary, Lady Mionia Moore; treasurer, Lady Ora Allen.

The Present Day Club held its regular meeting on Tuesday of this week at the home of Mrs. R. R. Giffner, of 227 Chapman street. Mrs. W. H. Galvani gave a very interesting talk on "The Russian Women of Today." Mrs. Morgan's pleasing paper took the club from Stockholm to Moscow via St. Petersburg. The club has decided to give a theater party Christmas week at the Heilig to see "Peer Gynt." The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Ballou.

The Hawthorne 500 Club met with Mrs. Harry Pfaff on Wednesday, December 8. As the day was also the natal day

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