

COURT MUST DECIDE WHICH ONE IS WIFE

Two Claim Pensions as Widow of Dead Canadian.

WOMAN HERE REMARRIES

Divorce Case Brings Up Tangle in Identical Descriptions of Husband Vary.

PRINCIPALS IN DUAL IDENTITY MYSTERY WHICH IS PUZZLING LOCAL COURT.



Left—Robert J. White, center—Mrs. Gertrude Lahey, former wife of Robert J. White, right—Another view of Robert J. White, below—Sergeant Robert J. White of the Canadian army, formerly of Portland.

Was Sergeant Robert J. White of Portland, who was killed in action with the Canadians at Valenciennes, Belgium, in August, 1918, married to two women, one in this city and the other in Victoria, B. C., in the effort of Mrs. Gertrude Lahey of Portland to secure annulment of her marriage to J. E. Lahey, on the ground that she was the wife of White when wedded to Lahey, only an attempt to establish a claim to a pension from the Canadian government.

This is the real issue in the marriage annulment suit of Mrs. Lahey which was taken under advisement by Circuit Judge Morrow yesterday and in which a decision will be handed down early this week.

And if the latter explanation should prove true, who was the Robert J. White Mrs. Lahey married in Seattle? And was he the Robert J. White who was victim of an explosion in a munition factory in New York early in 1918.

Despite positive evidence produced by Mrs. Alice White of Victoria, both as to her marriage to White and his subsequent movements, and the refusal of Mrs. Mary Kutzschan, mother of White, to recognize as her son pictures presented by Mrs. Lahey, the Portland woman offers startling circumstantial evidence to support her claim of marriage to White in Seattle two months prior to the wedding of Mrs. Alice White.

Mrs. Lahey Draws Pension. Mrs. Lahey drew several hundred dollars from the Canadian government as pension before Mrs. White of Victoria established her claim. Mrs. White received the notification of her husband's death from the Canadian war department and many of his effects and caused the notice of his death to be published in Portland newspapers. It was through these advertisements, inserted in The Oregonian and Journal September 4, 1918, that Mrs. Lahey first learned of the death of the man she claims as husband.

Mrs. Lahey's story was that she had married Lahey after noticing the death of one Robert J. White in a munition factory explosion in New York in 1918, after she had been months without word from her husband. She made no effort to verify the death by writing to the munition plant, but told her mother she "just knew it was Bob," and six months later married Lahey.

Subsequently learning of the death of Sergeant White through a notice inserted in the Portland papers by Mrs. White for the purpose of information to Portland friends, her husband of his honorable death, Mrs. Lahey decided she had been too hasty. Divorce proceedings had already been started against her husband on grounds of cruelty were withdrawn, and new proceedings began for annulment of the marriage. In the meantime application was made to the pension bureau in Canada by Mrs. Lahey, who submitted purported photographs of White and her marriage certificate to support her claim.

Judge to Decide Proof. The question to be decided by Judge Morrow is the sufficiency of her proof. Mrs. Lahey brought the annulment suit in the local courts and received a default decree several months ago. On representations of the Canadian government, the case was reopened and an answer filed and Deputy District Attorneys Hammersly and Graham protected the interests of the state.

Lahey was the third husband of Mrs. Lahey. Her maiden name was Gertrude Howett. She married a man named "Magson" and later was divorced. On April 5, 1915, she took out a license in Seattle to marry one Robert J. White. The certificate was produced in court. She had known him since childhood in Portland, she testified. He had been a plumber and in the practice of his trade had lost a finger from one hand, she did not know which, she said. Testimony of White's mother, his Canadian wife, and the evidence of enlistment papers show that he had lost two fingers from his right hand.

Mrs. Lahey said that White came to Portland for her, and took her to Seattle, where they were married. After a brief honeymoon lasting about a week, she returned to Portland.

The photographs to the right and left of the woman are of the same person, as the woman claims, she will receive a pension from the Canadian government; the heart of a woman in Canada will be broken; a war hero will have been proved a polyanthist, and a strange matrimonial tangle will be only partially solved.

land to pack her things while he went back to work for the explosives company. Before she could join him, she received a letter, she asserted, from her husband, telling her that he was going to San Francisco. He did not touch at Portland on his way, but wrote her from the Bay city, she testified. He sent her some money from San Francisco and said he was going to accept a position with the Dupont Powder company in New York state, she declared.

This was the last she ever heard from her husband, she said. She wrote him at James Island and the letter was returned, indorsed "Try San Francisco," Mrs. Lahey declared. Of all the letters she said she received from White, Mrs. Lahey was unable to produce one.

"I burnt them all as soon as I had answered them," she testified. She offered one postal card in evidence, which she claimed White had sent her from James Island in an envelope. Early in 1918 Mrs. Lahey, then White, saw a notice in The Oregonian of an explosion in a New York powder works, and among the dead was listed "Robert J. White." Against the advice of her mother, Mrs. Mattie Howett, and without any inquiry, she decided her husband was dead, and six months later married J. E. Lahey. That was June 5, 1918.

On September 4, 1918, appeared the article in Portland papers inserted by Mrs. White of Victoria, calling attention to the death in action of Robert John White, formerly of Portland. In the belief that her husband was not killed in the powder works, Mrs. Lahey corresponded with the Canadian pension department sending pictures of White. Her right as a widow was recognized by the Canadian authorities and she was sent \$200 as first payment on her pension and \$42.50 a month until the claim of Mrs. White of Victoria was filed.

Claim is Recognized. The claim of the Canadian woman was recognized immediately by the pension department of that government, which had sent her the first notice



Portrait of Sergeant Robert J. White, formerly of Portland.

of her husband's death and all his belongings. When she made her application to the pension bureau, her right was upheld and payment of Mrs. Lahey was stopped until the matter could be cleared up.

Mrs. White said that she met White for the first time while working in a store in Victoria. He was employed at James Island just prior to his marriage to her, June 5, 1918, was a plumber by trade and had lost two fingers of his right hand. She met him in October, 1915, she said. At no time between the time they met and their marriage did more than one week elapse without her seeing him, she declared.

The same day White married he enlisted in the Canadian forces, went to the mobilization camp in Calgary and left there for overseas December 4, 1916. His wife had numerous letters from him and records of the Canadian government carried out her her story in its entirety.

Mrs. Mary Kutzschan, mother of White, or Woloka, identified pictures produced of the man in Canadian uniform as her son. "She was very positive. She was quite as positive that the pictures produced by Mrs. Lahey were not of her son."

Mrs. Lahey testified that she had visited a woman White spoke of as his mother in San Francisco, but had never seen Mrs. Kutzschan. She was certain the man in Canadian uniform was the man she had married, she said.

The contention of Mrs. Lahey is that her husband fell in love with another woman, married her and enlisted in the Canadian army after taking steps to deceive his real wife.

Lewis Agent to See Dairy Show. CHEHALIS, Wash., Oct. 4.—(Special.)—A. B. Nystrom, Lewis county agent, left today for a trip of a month, during which he will visit the National dairy show in Chicago. On his return he will visit his parents in Kansas.

OREGON WILL HONOR ROOSEVELT MEMORY

All in Readiness for Campaign October 20-27.

COUNTY CHAIRMAN NAMED

Every Citizen of State Asked to Contribute to Fund and Help Perpetuate Leader's Ideals.

County chairmen for the Roosevelt memorial campaign were announced yesterday by Dr. Henry Waldo Coe, state chairman, Judge Jacob Kanzer will direct the campaign in Multnomah county.

"With the co-operation of county and local committees in all parts of Oregon," said Dr. Coe, "the Roosevelt Memorial association is ready for its campaign during the week of October 20-27 to honor the memory of Theodore Roosevelt. The people of Oregon are requested throughout that week to contribute to the memorial fund."

"The Roosevelt Memorial association believes that Americans desire two forms of memorials for their dead leader. The first of these is one that shall be immediate and that shall enable all Americans to subscribe to and uphold the staunch Americanism of Theodore Roosevelt. The concrete expression of this sentiment will be in a series of meetings held in every city and town of Oregon, as well as throughout the United States, on Roosevelt's birthday, October 27."

All Classes Represented. County and local committees of representative citizens of all parties

LEGION WANTS U. S. AID

MOVEMENT BEGUN TO GET MONEY FOR STUDENTS.

Ashland Post Indorses Federal Legislation Modeled After Oregon Act Granting \$25 Month.

ASHLAND, Or., Oct. 4.—(Special.)—Ashland post, No. 14, of the American legion has started a movement to obtain federal aid for ex-service men attending a state institution of learning in an amount not to exceed \$25 a month. Nearly 1500 men have already taken advantage of the act, and its success is indicated by the fact that every higher institution of learning in the state is crowded to capacity, according to the statistics compiled by the Ashland post. More than twice as many Ashland boys are entering colleges this year than have ever before gone from the city for that purpose.

In Oregon the state furnishes finances to the ex-service man attending a state institution of learning in an amount not to exceed \$25 a month. Nearly 1500 men have already taken advantage of the act, and its success is indicated by the fact that every higher institution of learning in the state is crowded to capacity, according to the statistics compiled by the Ashland post. More than twice as many Ashland boys are entering colleges this year than have ever before gone from the city for that purpose.

FORESTS CALL SOLDIERS University Adapts Courses to Needs of ex-Service Men. UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, Moscow, Oct. 4.—(Special.)—Special efforts will be made to adapt the University of Idaho ranger course, which will

open November 3, to the needs of the returned soldier, Dean F. G. Miller of the university forestry school said today. "This five months' course is designed to meet the needs of forest rangers and guards who wish to increase their efficiency," he declared; "but we also intend to bend every effort to make the course attractive to the returned soldier who finds himself interested in the ranger's outdoor life. The demand for trained men in forestry always exceeds the supply and at this time opportunities for advancement are unusually good."

AUTO EXCHANGE PLANNED

Centralia Dealers Propose Joint Store and Name Trustees.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Oct. 4.—(Special.)—At a meeting held last night in the local chamber of commerce by auto and accessory dealers of Lewis county, 12 trustees were nominated to represent the county in the Automobile Club of Western Washington.

Six of the nominees will be elected by vote of the members of the club living in this county. The men nominated were: George Williams, M. C. Hancock, L. E. Titus and E. H. Johnson, Centralia; A. C. St. John, W. P. West, Otto Alberts, J. Kvarno and J. P. Hurley, Chehalis; George McCormick, McCornick; W. A. Carlisle, Olympia; and Hugh E. Ryan, Toledo.

Plans were discussed for the establishment of a used car exchange, in which all of the dealers would hold stock.

Merchants Boycott Paper. CENTRALIA, Wash., Oct. 4.—(Special.)—A resolution not to advertise in the Seattle Union Record was adopted yesterday at a meeting held by 25 of the city's leading business men. It is said the action of the merchants is the result of unfavorable publicity recently directed at the city through the columns of the Record.

Blackberry Output 80 Tons. COTTAGE GROVE, Or., Oct. 4.—(Special.)—Eighty tons of blackberries were put up by the Cottage Grove cannery this season. Last year the amount of these berries put up was 60 tons.

BACK AGAIN Extra Pants Boys' Suits \$13.50 to \$24

The Juvenile Outfitters & Children 143 Sixth, Near Alder Street.

GREATER PORTLAND ASSOCIATION 501-502 Selling Bldg. Main 3603 THESE SPECIALTY MERCHANTS issue 2% "G. P. A." profit-sharing vouchers...

YOU WILL BE PROUD TO SHOW IT The 1900 Cataract Electric Washer SPECIAL TRIAL OFFER You may try the 1900 in your own home free for two weeks.

Women's Apparel at Our Upstairs Prices is known to most Oregon women. Why pay the ground floor price? We give discount vouchers.

Peterson's Upstairs Store 2d Floor, Pittock Block Take any elevator.

The Violet Cleaners Portland's Original Scotchless Presser. 210 Broadway, Near Salmon Main 918.

BUY THAT CHRISTMAS WATCH NOW While You Have the Large Selection at a Lower Price. STAPLES--THE JEWELER

BOOKS STATIONERY OFFICE SUPPLIES Quality and Prices being equal we specialize on Service. Try us first when in need.

A. W. Schmale 290 Morrison St., Portland

R.M. Lewis GAS AND ELECTRIC GOODS 462 Morrison Street, Main 7207.

TRUSSES We specialize in fitting trusses. Send for circular and measuring blank. We are headquarters for Abdominal Supporters, Elastic Stockings, Rubber goods, Pure drugs, etc.

BOWMAN BROS. Men's Popular Priced Union Made Clothing, Furnishing Goods, Hats, Shoes, Etc.

Lennon's 300 Morrison, Postoffice Opposite The Walnut Shop, Portland Hotel Court.

Solomon's Novelty Jewelry All the latest in Bar Pins, Wrist Watches and Jewelry. 333 MORRISON ST.

Skidmore Drug Co. 50 Years in Business Nothing but Best in Drugs 151 THIRD ST. Main 293; A-2193

EXCLUSIVE AGENTS "Hanan" Shoes "THE BEST ON EARTH" for Men and Women We give Greater Portland Stamps.

Greenfield's Corner FOURTH AND MORRISON

THE ORIGINAL MOYER Clothing Co. Dan E. Bowman 3d and Oak Sts. ONLY Better Clothes for Less Means a positive saving to you When you see it in our ad, it's so.

Lipman Wolfe & Co Merchandise of Merit Only

EVERYTHING FOR CASH—EVERYTHING FOR LESS Economy Basement Store WHERE YOU SPEND THE LEAST AND GET THE MOST FOR IT.

Models Sketched Are \$37.50

Suits in the Economy Basement At \$24.95 to \$50 Differ ONLY in Price From Higher Priced Models EXCEPTIONAL SUITS AT \$37.50 FEATURED FOR MONDAY SIX CHARMING STYLES

—Lines are smartly straight, save where broken by equally chic narrow belts which define bloused waist lines. Collars button snugly high and may be worn choker effect. All are beautifully silk lined. —Two models have detachable Hudson seal animal collars. —One very smartly tailored model in surf-brown velours is exceptionally exclusive looking; its lines are beautifully simple and straight. MATERIALS Velour, Poplin, Poiret Twills ALL SIZES COLORS Navy, Taupe, Surf-Brown, Reindeer and Two-Tone Checks —See these beautiful suits Monday by all means. There are only a few of each model, so you sacrifice nothing in exclusiveness when you purchase at this very moderate price. Lipman, Wolfe & Co.—ECONOMY BASEMENT This Store Uses No Comparative Prices—They Are Misleading and Often Untrue

Your Old Draperies Dyed, Cleaned or Made Over Draperies and old hangings redyed or cleaned by our master dyers and cleaners, and made over in our workshop, are both distinctive and unusual. They portray one's own individuality. Consult Us About This Work. Fine Furniture Upholstering Unusual upholstery materials at a reasonable price, with workmanship of the highest character, enables us to offer a real upholstery service. Phone Sellwood 3404 We'll gladly call and give you an estimate. Decorative Upholsterers and Interior Decorators