

Two Happy, Handsome Wives, One Husband In One House.

His Arrest for Another Crime Results in Exposure of His Bigamous Venture

Charles R. Sager, and Mrs. Sager No. 1.



Mrs. Sager, No. 2.

IF ALL reports are true, Charles R. Sager, of Madison, Wis., is a remarkable man. For no one else but a remarkable man could shelter two wives in the same household, as he is accused of doing, and enjoy, all the while, an atmosphere of peace and contentment.

Sager is not the first man charged with the possession of two wives and no acquaintance with the divorce court, but he is the first, so far as known, who has successfully harassed such spouses tandem, so to speak, under the same roof.

By the unique arrangement which he put into effect the first, and, as asserted, the legal, wife, the mother of his two little children, acted as general servant, while the other woman posed as the feminine head of the household.

So harmonious was the arrangement and so little did the two wives jar that Sager lived in happiness with both. When he was arrested both wives asserted their unalterable fidelity to him; together they visited him in jail, wife No. 2 pushing the carriage in which the baby of wife No. 1 reposed, and each declared her willingness to give Sager up to the other in order to avoid making trouble for him.

This arrangement, it appears, might have gone on indefinitely but for a little police difficulty into which the man tumbled. Even this prosaic happening, however, cannot remove him from the list of truly remarkable men.

IN HIS choice of wives Sager gave evidence of versatile taste and ideals that ran a wide range. Both women are young and handsome, the first, however, being a tall, blue-eyed blonde and the other a chic, spirited little brunette. Trouble assailed Sager in a heap when he was arrested, one night recently, charged with stabbing a man in a personal controversy. This incident was not of momentous importance, and would not have revealed to the world the queer domestic life of the insurance solicitor—for that is Sager's business—had he not voluntarily made astonishing acknowledgments on the witness stand at his preliminary hearing. In extenuation, he said to have declared that he and his first wife did not get along well together, and that he had intended to secure a divorce, but had overlooked that legal formality. Last May, he stated, he married wife No. 2. During the following summer he lived with her, but the two women frequently visited each other. Some time ago Sager took a house in a good section of the city, just around the corner from the residence of the Governor of the State, and set up his strange household. The first and legal wife, it is asserted, took a part of the house and went there to live with her two children. She also offered to act as servant for her husband

and the woman who had supplanted her in his affections. Sager is well known in Madison, and has lived there for the last eight years. He is a German, aged 23, the son of a well-to-do farmer, living near Lake Koshkonong. The home in which he lived with his two wives was but two doors from Bethel Lutheran Church, in which he was married five years ago by the pastor, Rev. Thore Egeon.

The first Mrs. Sager was Miss Bessie Knudson, a Norwegian girl from Black River Falls. She is a striking-looking woman, well educated and refined, but she does not seem to consider her position in the household anything out of the ordinary.

When she learned of the arrest of her husband she was lulling her pretty 3-year-old baby to sleep, with wife No. 2 looking sympathetically on.

Both women declared they would do everything in their power to help their joint husband out of his scrape. They seemed to be on the best of terms.

The second Mrs. Sager was Miss Margaret Mulholland, aged 24, daughter of J. R. Mulholland, a wealthy German farmer with a Scotch wife, living near Valton, in Sauk county, forty miles north of Madison.

WIFE YIELDED TO NEW LOVE

About two years ago she went to Madison to earn her own livelihood, as daughters of many well-to-do farmers have done for years. During the early days of her residence in the city she met Sager, and, it seems, infatuated him.

Being a kindly woman, the man's wife, when she learned of the state of affairs, simply remonstrated with him. When, as reported, he declared that he could not give up his new love, the two agreed to separate.

How much Miss Mulholland was to blame for breaking up the Sager household is hard to say. She now asserts, it is said, that she was deceived and did not know that Sager was married. At other times she has made the statement that she expected Sager would get his divorce and that then all would be well.

At any rate, when reporters called on them on the night after Sager's confession neither wife spoke of deception or misunderstanding, and vehemently declared that so long as the three persons most interested were satisfied with the arrangement they considered it impertinent of the courts and outsiders to "butt in" and make trouble.

"Charlie is a good, kind man," said the second wife, "and we shall surely stick to him through thick and thin." Then, turning to Mrs. Sager No. 1, she asked, "Shan't we, Bessie?" To which Mrs. Sager replied, "We surely shall."

And truly they did. For several days they frequently visited Sager in jail, going together, No. 2 wheeling the carriage containing the baby of No. 1, and the two seeming on the best of terms.

At the jail Sager would kiss both women and kiss



Mrs. Sager No. 2 Cared for Mrs. Sager No. 1's Baby While She Did the Washing

the children. He would divide his attentions between the two women and kiss them both on parting. There was no sign of preference or partiality for one or for the other.

Asked on one such occasion: "If you were free and unmarried and had to choose between your two wives, which would you take?" he paused a moment, confusedly, and said:

"Really, I don't know. I can't say. Both come to see me; both are doing all they can to help me, and it wouldn't be fair for me to show any partiality."

Defining his novel household arrangement, Sager remarked: "My first wife was taking in washing, and had a hard time to get along. Feeling that she might suffer during the winter, I determined to do what I could to make her comfortable."

How did the two women regard this plan? They seemed to be well satisfied, and dwelt together in harmony. Wife No. 1 revealed her mental processes in the following words:

"I did not wish to wound the feelings of either by referring to the previous marital relations existing between Mr. Sager and myself, so I never did so in their presence."

"We expected to get a divorce in time, and, of course,

considered ourselves as good as divorced. I found out he was going with another woman, from letters in his pockets, and tried to make him give her up, but he couldn't. I knew the girl could not escape him, and that he would follow her to the end of the world, and so I finally let him have his own way and marry her."

"We still met, and remained friends, and as I was a friend of his second wife I saw no harm in going to live with them when they invited me."

"It is true that I have been doing much work for this second wife, but it was necessary for me to do something. I did not know where the dreadful thing would end, but I loved Charlie and hated to give him up, and yet at the same time did not dare to speak, and waited, hoping things would turn out all right some way. I am sure I cannot help it."

Mrs. Sager No. 2 in her first interviews did not disclaim knowledge of Sager having been married, and was disposed to resent investigation and to stand by Mrs. Sager No. 1.

"She is such a kind, good woman, and you couldn't

LOOKING BACKWARD

WILLIAM OGDEN is said to have been the first professional bookmaker. He made a book on the English Derby in 1780.

Newspaper advertisements made their earliest appearance in 1622.

In ancient Rome men only grew beards as a sign of mourning. In Egypt all went clean shaven; but in Assyria only the slaves and peasants shaved.

The first steamer to make a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean was the Savannah, of 200 tons and 100 feet in length. She sailed from Savannah on May 24, 1819, and arrived at Liverpool June 26. The first steamer to sail from Liverpool for New York was the Royal William, 407 tons. She sailed July 5, 1832, and was nineteen days on the trip.

Before the Norman conquest Winchester, not London, was the capital of England.

Bank holidays were introduced in England in August, 1871.

The bloomer costume was first worn by Mrs. Bloomer in New York in 1840.

From 1808 to 1833 Scottish bankrupts were compelled to wear a sort of convict dress, half yellow, half brown.

The life was used in military bands as early as the year 1325 at the siege of Pavia.

Buttons appear to have first come into use in the reign of Edward I of England. The first were made of wood.

In 1825 75 per cent. of English people lived in the country. Today 75 per cent. live in towns.

The first catalogue of stars was published in 1509 by Tycho Brahe. It contained 77 fixed stars. The number now visible to the naked eye is over 6000.

The omnibus made its appearance in Paris in 1662, and charged a fare of about 5 cents.

HOLD THEIR OWN SERVICES

ON SUNDAY afternoons the children of Oakley M. E. Church, New York city, hold services of their own.

This innovation was started by Rev. H. A. King, the pastor, who believes in beginning early to train young people in religious work.

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SOME CURIOUS FACTS

THIS favorite amusement of Queen Wilhelmina of Holland are skating and riding, but as a child her hobby was the keeping of poultry. Her Majesty is devoted to animals, and is averse to sport, as she cannot bear to think of the animals in her preserves being slaughtered.

Elephant's foot takes longer to cook than any other dish. It must be baked for thirty-six hours.

The capacity of the reindeer for team work is remarkable. His hoofs are very broad and do not penetrate the snow crusts. His average weight is about 400 pounds. He will swiftly draw a sled carrying 600 pounds, and with this load can cover thirty, forty and even ninety miles a day. Reindeer teams now carry the mails from Kotzebue to Point Barrow, Alaska, a distance of 600 miles—the most northerly post route in the world. No food is carried for the deer. At the end of his journey, or at any stopping place, he is turned loose, and at once breaks through the snow to the white moss which serves as his food.

Light blue eyes are generally the most powerful, and next to those are gray. The lighter the pupil the greater and longer continued is the degree of tension the eye can sustain.

Champagne takes up much time and care in the making. Altogether a bottle of champagne goes through two hundred different operations, covering a period of two and a half years. And in addition it is sometimes kept two or three years longer in the vaults maturing.

The world's largest shell ring was made in a day, and merchants, clerks and customers rush off to the mosque, leaving all business at a standstill.

Snails are slow even when it comes to dying. One well-known naturalist had mounted a shell upon a card was surprised to find, four years later, that the warm water employed in soaking the shell of the snail had revived him, and that he had long supposed to be dried and dead.

Several specimens in another collection were revived in a similar manner. They had lain in a drawer for some fifteen years. These had not been glued to a card, but had been left lying loose, and, though frequently handled, had shown no signs of life.

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MAN'S VAIN STRUGGLE OF CENTURIES TO REFORM WOMAN'S DRESS

RASH men sometimes rush in where angels fear to tread. They inaugurate reform measures in politics, business and even the church, but sometimes their zealous efforts aim at the impossible.

Since Eve first began sewing fig leaves together in the shape of walking suits and evening gowns, man has endeavored to have the feminine costume constructed upon rational—er, that is, upon lines that seemed to his superior and highly practical mind as being the right thing.

Has he ever succeeded? Well, a movement for a masculine-conducted woman's dress reform is going on now, and an observant philosopher has this to say on the subject:

"This is not the first time in the world's history that a plague of extravagant women has been visited upon man for his sins. Once or twice before this evil has been tackled by reformers." Then, a switching to another part of the subject leaves the impression that the "tackling" did not succeed.

NO of a few things are past the comprehension of mere man, and one of these is the mystery of feminine apparel—the fashionable raiment and the ramifications thereof with which she persists in "adorning" herself.

Grandness and extravagance of style are always backed up by a conscious superiority on the part of the feminine mind that puts the male objector promptly out of business.

The ardent wooer of Queen Elizabeth's day no doubt raved bitterly against the huge ruff that stood out about his lady's neck like a repelling picket fence.

He could see no more use in it than his descendant of today sees in the enormous picture hat—nor could he see a pound of over it.

But the ruff remained, and men of the period had to do as well with it as they could, which was, not very well.

Frequently they got a taste of ruffles in their mouths instead of the pucker of baby lips.

Really shocking to man's sensibilities, however, was the extraordinary horned headpiece that women of the fourteenth century perched upon themselves.



The Preposterous Horned Headpiece of the 14th Century Shocked Him



Even Now He Cannot Overcome the Fearsome Theatre Hat.



He Could Do Nothing With the Vain Lady of Queen Elizabeth's time

gentle but extended curve, asking a general course of northeast by north.

Now this "picture hat" of the period was, no doubt, a thing of joy to the women of that day, but it caused a notable enlargement of the prevalent vocabulary of profanity.

Then there was the extraordinary French style of coiffure that produced a towering bulk of hair upon the head, like piling a luxuriant, fluffy Pelion upon a fair, intellectual Ossa of marble brow.

Opera glasses were not so well known or in common use at that time, and had they been there were no visual aids that could project slight over a towering hill or around a corner.

So the men who attended plays then were in as lamentable a plight as their brothers of modern times were before the "hats on" habit became general.

For some reason or other—no one knows why such expectations should ever have animated man with any hope of success—he has attempted to reform woman's

ideas of dress and fashion.

Away back in ages past a little book made its appearance—"Quilps for Upstart Newfangled Gentlewomen."

Now, the title of the work was trinked, in the first place, and the animosity displayed therein was certainly not calculated to win members of the fair sex from their allegiance to the Dame Fashion of the period, no matter how much her decrees jarred upon the masculine mind.

There was another old-time writer, one Stephen Gosson by name, who laboriously—and, doubtless, without effect—produced a work entitled "A Treatise of the Abuse and Declining of the Pryde and Abuse of Women Now a Dayes."

When it is said that this learned treatise of an important subject was doubtless without effect, it is meant that history does not record the ensuing sweep of any dress reform about that period.

Mr. Gosson perhaps went down to his grave "unwept, unremembered and unused" by his female contemporaries, and without making the slightest change in the fashions of the times.

At any rate, he freed his soul of its spleen, and that was something to him, perhaps. Any had lain in a drawer for some fifteen years. These had not been glued to a card, but had been left lying loose, and, though frequently handled, had shown no signs of life.

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