in Tillie the Toiler Was Named Co-respondent

> The Most Curious Divorce Case on Record--a Husband in Love with a Popular Comic Strip Charmer, and His Very

> > Romantic Letters to Her Read in

Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALLFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE. CLARA F. HANDESTY, COMES NOW the plaintiff and for cause of action against the defendant herein, complains and alleges:

n Dantiff and has failed and refused and affection; " that defendant conplaintiff that his ideal of a woman was "fillie,

That for the past two years defendant has been accumulating the papers and clippings of Tillie, the Toiler and pasting them in a scrap book and devoted all his time in reading seld Scrap Book and assisting himself with said Tillie, the loiler clippings and neglected to devote any time or attention to

knows the contents thereof; and that the same is trover own knowledge, except as to the matters which are thereinstated upon her information or belief, and as to those matters that

Subscribed and sworn to before

some Public in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California

had the privilege of being in the office every day with "Til-lie." "Whipple," the "worthless sheik" of the office, was occasionally warned by sionally warned by Hardesty that he had petter not presume be "indiscreet" w

Dear Tillie: Dear Tillie:
Well, here it is time for me to write to
you again, if I can get tha time. My
wife continually mags me. I think she
guesses there is something between us.
I sure wish you could work in my
office. That gang doesn't appreciate you
a single bit.

a single bit.

You ought to choke Whipple because
he is a worthless sheik. You can't trust
the sheik type. Mack is a boob. He
wastes his time working when he ought
to be leving you

wastes his time working to be loving you.

I want to tell you you are the Ideal of my Dream Girl, and some day I hope we can be soul mates.

With a million Risses,

Your

EVERGET.

Again he west-Again he wrote.

Following is one of Actual Facsimile of Specimen Pages of Complaint in Divorce Hardesty's letters to Case of Clara F. Hardesty Against E. V. Hardesty.

Tillie, presented by his wife as documentary evidence of his unfaithfulness to her:

Los Angeles, July 6, 1924.

Bear Tillie:

BILL FILED.

Becarful,

Your love.

EVERETT.

"Whipple." the debonair person in the second of the sec BILL FILED.

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"Whipple," the debonair person in the office with "Tillie," who at one time in the course of the comic atrip story seemed to be "Mack's," the head book-keeper's, chief rival for "Tillie's" affections, aroused considerable resentment in the breast of the adoring Hardesty.

He wrote "Tillie's note, attaching another anonymous missive to be delivered to "Whipple," which contained a stern warning.

stern warning.
This letter was as follows:

Dear Tillie:
Tear off below dotted line and leave on Whipple's deak. Say, Mr. Whipple:
I am a lookout to help Miss Tillle. You listen—that "gal," as you call her, is my sweethcart. I will trim you to one hell of a sick man if I cath you being indiscreet to Tillie. You know what I mean.
ONE WHO KNOWS.

You are the Girl of my Jreams.

I am with you and for you at all times.

I hope to meet you some day and show you the kind of a man I would make for you.

Whipple and Mack are n. g.

The letter which Handesty wrote to the bookkeeper, "Mack," was also to be delivered to him by "Illie." Evidently you.

Whipple and Mack are n. g.

"Tillie."

He wrote as follows:

Mack:
I will have Tillie slip you
this. It is a warning. Keep
on guarding Tillie, and tell
me if that sheik Whipple
starts anything. You sure
are lucky to be in the same
office with Tillie.
I would scrub floors if I
could be three and have the
opportunity to be near her.
I would shine her shoes and
bring her floners every day.

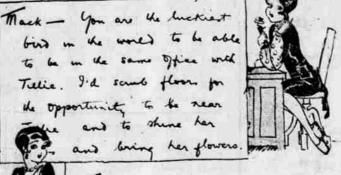
I would shine her shoes and bring her flowers every day. Now, Mack, take core. In all the history of American jurisprodence there has not been so odd a divorce case as that of Clara and Everett Hardesty. There are instances on

and Everett Hardesty.

There are instances on record, of course, in which lusbands neglected their wives because of other things besides "other women"—
hobbies, like golf, pool or poker, objectionable practices like burning up the morning paper before Wiffe had a chance to read it—wisting the cat's tail, wearing yellow neckties, or eccentricities of a hundred other varieties. But never before has a husband apparently become enamored of a fictional character, neglected his wife and aroused her ire and jealousy because of his devo-

TELLTALE MISSIVES. Copies of Hardesty's Let-ters to "Mack" and "Tillie," Produced in tion to the non-existent other woman.

Psychologists would call it a typical case of "frustration." They would say that Everett Hardesty was not happy with his wife. He found she did not meas-



Tillie - you ought to choke Whipple because he is . a worth can sheik and Mack is a book. I want to tell you that you are the ideal girl of my dreams and I only hopse some day we can be some mate,

"Tillie the Toiler," the Cause of It All, Sketched by Russ Westover, Her Cartoonist Creator, With Other Characters from the Famous Strip.

ure up to his plans and specifications for the ideal "dream girl" who, according to song and story, tradition and science, lurks in the back of every man's head.

In "Tillie the Toiler," perhaps, Everett Hardesty found pictured the girl of his dreams. She existed far more realistically than would have been the case if she had remained merely a shadowy, dimly outlined creature in Hardesty's imagination. She was alive, moving, talking, every day in Hardesty's favorite newspaper. She had daily contact with human characters—all too human to Hardesty.

newspaper. She had dany chuman to human characters—all too human to Hardesty.

Like the schoolgirl revealing her most intimate thoughts and hopes in a diary, or addressing passionate letters to an imaginary Prince Charming, Everett Hardesty committed his dream-life to paper. That's where he made his mistake—writing letters, He had not learned the valuable lesson which experienced the valuable lesson which experienced Lotharios revere as the first law of phi-

the valuable lesson which experienced Lotharios revère as the first law of philandering—never put anything in writing. Wife found Everett's letters to his Dream Girl, and now she's using them against him.

A strange case, you may say—but Everett Hardesty need not hang his head in shame if his friends should call him the flat-tire of the ages or the prize boob of Christendom. He is not the first man who has allowed his dream-life to get the better of his ham-and-egg existence. The records of psychological research are full of such cases.

There is the classic example of the immortal poet Dante, who had the most celebrated "dream girl" in all human history. She was Beatrice, the wife of another man. Dante did not stoop to an affair with her, but, with Beatrice as a nucleus, he constructed his beatific vision of the perfect woman, and loved her more eloquently in burning verse than man has over loved, before or since.

So Everett Hardesty can find high precedent for saying to his dream girl" "See you Sunday in the funny paper!" And who shall say him nay?

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blood corespondents ays an abundance, but Toiler" wins the deckles the only comic strip amed as the "other ree action! s fetching little stenogto newspaper readers the unwitting cause in California.

eged infatuation for "Time, ove letters" are produced in precipitated a national con-ong comic strip fans last year her hair in the boyish style. the resipient of hundreds of Westover has a voluminous mestover has a voluminous andence with constant read-rip. But this is "Tillie's" ce in a divorce court. estys were married in St. il 15, 1922. They lived to-two years and nine months,

greater part of this time, he wife's allegations, Harhe greater part of this time, the wife's allegations, Harde wife's allegations, Harde he wife's allegations, Harde he wife wife willing to the of his dreams, "Tillie the their separation on Janu-Mrs. Hardesty sets forth, has "wilfully and without and abandoned her," but part of her grievous mental abeen caused by Hardesty's ling admiration for the cute the comic strip.

Than two years, she says, teumulated the papers and "Tillie the Toller" daily comics, pasted them in a and devoted all his time in d scrap-book and amusing a said Tillie the Toller' clip-neglected to devote any time at o plaintiff." the time, his wife charges, as writing letters to "Tillig."

a to plaintiff."

I the time, his wife charges, as writing letters to "Tillia." his admiration in burning sometimes he varied the pro-writing to other characters in strip in which the sprightly winkles daily. "Mack," the d long-suffering bookkeeper, to "Tillie" in spite of her

