

Woman Rushes into Burning Building to Die with Husband

SEATTLE, Wash., Mar. 11.—"Robert" Gaffney was wearing woman's clothes after living as a man for nearly twenty years, including four years as husband of Mrs. Margaret Gaffney, a widow.

Prosecuted by the charity organization after "he" deserted Mrs. Gaffney and her three children, "Robert" Gaffney invalidated a "lazy husband" warrant by disclosing her true sex. The prosecutor decided the woman who was a husband could not be prosecuted under any existing local law.

Mr. Gaffney, whose real name has not been ascertained, declares she married because she sympathized with Mrs. Gaffney and her children.

"Mrs. Margaret Gaffney" says that she married "Robert" Gaffney believing him to be a man. She says she did not suspect her husband was not a man until about a year after their marriage. She then taxed "Robert" Gaffney with being a woman, but "he" laughed at the charge. On another occasion, she says, her "husband" threatened her with a revolver and warned her not to mention the subject again.

"Robert" Gaffney is 44 years old. Her appearance in male attire does not provoke suspicion of her sex. She is slender. She dresses neatly. Her dark hair is iron grey at the temples. Her voice is husky and her speech curt. Her hands are roughed by hard work.

As a man "Robert" Gaffney has worked as a shingle weaver, as a department store porter and as a janitor. Men who worked beside her for years had no suspicion of her deception.