

# SECRETS OF WOMAN HUSBAND

## Mystery of Her Strange Life Yielded By Former "Wives"

### STRANGE ACTIONS OF RUSSIAN PEASANT

#### ASSUMES "MANHOOD" BECAUSE HER CONNECTION WITH REV- OLUTIONARY "BUNDS."

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—The three-day wonder growing out of the discovery that Nicolai de Raylan, for years clerk to Baron Schlippenbach, Russian consul in Chicago, was a woman, a discovery only made after her death in Phoenix, Ariz., has been solved by the admission of the two women with whom she lived as "husband."

The motive for De Raylan's masquerade, which had been kept up for fifteen years, is mixed. Part of it dates back to her early affair with a girl in southern Russia, at the first period of her assuming "manhood," and part of the explanation is found in her connection with revolutionary "bunds" in this country and Russia.

Mrs. Eugenie Bruchulis, 3112 South Halsted street, De Raylan's first "wife" and Mrs. Anne De Raylan, 592 California avenue, both unbosomed themselves in explaining the "mystery."

#### Boy Her Own Child.

There was no great secret dating back to an "affair" with a nobleman in Russia. The woman, De Raylan, was of the common class and of the southern part. The 11-year-old boy who has

been reported as being the real child of the De Raylan woman, is in reality, as Mrs. Anne De Raylan has stated, her own child. The boy is the son of Joseph Armstrong, 1133 Milwaukee avenue, her former husband, and the register of the birth is in the city hall. Armstrong appeared and claimed the fatherhood. The reported "kidnaping" of the boy is a fiction, according to Mrs. De Raylan.

The idea of posing as a man grew gradually with the De Raylan girl. Trouble with her parents over a revolutionary secret drove her from her home in Elizavetgrad when 18 years old. She went to the town of Kamenyets, and there, as a man, won the love of a young girl, Jenya Vassilovitch.

#### Diary Tells of Romance.

Throughout all her life in America as a man, the romance clung to her. There, in her diary, which Mrs. Bruchulis revealed, was all the details of this sad romance. It told of how the De Raylan girl lost the love of "Jenya," referred to as 'my angel girl,' through an affair with a girl of the Neva quarter in St. Petersburg.

During the years of her double life in New York and Chicago and the City of Mexico, letters constantly went back to Russia to the "angel girl." The girl wrote pitiful letters, begging to be brought to this country, saying that she would be good and true, and at one period De Raylan tried to induce her friend, Francis Bruchulis, to marry her old "sweetheart."

#### Other Women Men.

During her residence in America, several other instances of like nature were brought to her attention. One was the discovery that Chevalier de Lemait, connected with the German consulate in New York, was a woman, and the other was the revelation of the real sex of a supposed man named Leon connected with the French consulate in London. The real training, however, came in the City of Mexico, where De Raylan was an aide to Adolf Devrschnitz for years acting Russian charge d'affaires. After the death of Dever-

schnitz it was discovered that "he" was a woman. For a short time in that city De Raylan lived as a woman, but upon leaving for New York assumed the dress and role of a man.

In New York, feeling sure of her deception, she married her first "wife" and from there the story proceeds to Chicago.

De Raylan's connection with the revolutionary party is seen in her presence at meetings of the West side "bund" and the secret conferences with fellow countrymen and the numerous dispatches sent to Russia.

## SISTERS FIGHT DUEL FOR LOVE

### Fatal Outcome of Tangled Cuban Romance Over a Handsome Chap— Authorities Investigate.

HAVANA, Dec. 28.—The report of a duel between two sisters has just reached here. Maria and Carmen Hidalgo lived on a farm near Las Lajas. Not far away on another plantation worked a handsome chap named Juanille, with whom both were in love. Juanille seems to have divided his attentions.

Some days ago the sisters had their first open quarrel about the young man. The next morning they left the house together at daylight. Carmen came back alone. Questions disclosed the fact that each had taken a revolver and gone to a lonely tobacco field to fight a duel.

Search revealed the body of Maria on the adjoining estate of Maguajara. Carmen has not been arrested, but the courts are investigating the case.

The sisters previously had been devoted to each other. One report from Las Lajas has it that they did not shoot at each other, but drew lots to