

MARRIED FOUR TIMES AT THE AGE OF 23

"I Am Lucky to Be Alive After All My Experiences," She Says. Charlotte, June 19.—Though her years were but a score and three, she knows by heart from finish to start the book of iniquity.

When Robert W. Service wrote those lines, he was in the wilds of the Yukon, but there was a prisoner in the Charlotte jail Thursday whose story, told between sobs and jabs at tear-filled eyes, might be summarized in these lines, written of a wild woman of gold rush days.

Twenty-three years of age and four times married, twice divorced and once divorcing and now the wife of a man 78 years of age—that is the unusual marital record of Rubie Wallace, tiny feminine bark on an ocean of woe, who admits that "I am lucky to be alive after all my experiences."

Is Given Prison Term. Veteran of many police court hearings, this well-educated, mentally active young woman faced Recorder Currie and calmly pleaded her case Thursday morning. After listening to her arguments and entreaties, the City Judge imposed a sentence of six to twelve months in the Mecklenburg County Home for delinquent women, fixed her bond at \$200 after he entered an appeal, and the officers led her away to a cell in jail, when she was unable to produce the \$200 surety.

In the meantime, she is awaiting the arrival from Columbia, S. C., of her aged husband, "the kindest man in the world," F. P. Gibson, who telegraphed her Wednesday night he would again come to her rescue, reassured her of his love and expressed his sorrow that she is once more in the toils of the law. Not a chiding word was included in the message, replying to her telegram which advised him she was arrested, charged with stealing a few articles from a room, at a hotel here while in an intoxicated condition.

Tells of Lurid Career. Lounging easily in her chair at police headquarters, this young woman told her story of a lurid career extending over a period of nine years, and it was evident that her innocent nature now is stratified by her wayward life. One moment the good that remains within her heart was reasserting itself, as her conversation indicated, and the next moment the hardness that has resulted from the buffeting of the world came uppermost. In a moment when she let her mind turn to what the future might have in store for her, she pitifully declared: "It's only Christian people that can help me save myself."

In the meantime, she declared vehemently that "I won't go back to the Industrial Home." Thrice before she has been sent there, and thrice she has run away, once with a companion who committed suicide a few days later at Greensboro and provided that North Carolina City with a five-day stirring story of pathos and tragedy, while arrangements were being made by sympathetic men and women for the funeral of one who left the world only one friend, a pauper mother in a Georgia town.

Tragedy Is Met Early. Born "somewhere in Virginia" and left an orphan at the age of three she was adopted by a family at Statesville for the members of which she professes to have the deepest affection, and, at the age of fourteen, she was married the first time. This ceremony, which was regarded as a happy event at the time, proved to be the first real tragedy in her life. Before their first child, a son, was born strife had developed in their home and soon after the birth of the second child, both of whom are living, she was sent away by her husband, then a well-known professional man of that town, after he had a fist-fight on the street with a man whom the girl says her first husband later learned was falsely accused.

The next chapter in her life was written at Hickory, and tragedy followed her there, where indiscretions of an elderly man and a slip of a girl, plus the consequences of her forging a check for \$250, resulted in her flight, which has continued intermittently from town to town, and from prison to prison. She admitted, in a voice torn by the conflict of the emotions of sorrow and resentment, that almost half her time in the past four years has been spent in prison somewhere. After fleeing from Hickory she went on the stage and appeared at various times as a member of tabloid vaudeville companies and other road shows.

Marries Two Others. In the meantime, she was twice again married, her first husband having divorced her and obtained custody of the younger child. The second husband was a farmer, living near Asheville, who, too, soon divorced her. The girl said her existence was as varied and troubled as it was lurid during the next year or two, and then she was married to a soldier quartered at Fort Bragg, near Fayetteville. She tired of life with him and a divorce soon followed. In the meantime, her fourth husband, a man of some wealth, living near the corner of College and Gates Streets, at Columbia, fell victim to her wiles and again she took the wily of widowhood.

This aged man "is simply the best husband in the world and just worships me," she declared, with some show of pride. When she was asked why she was away from home and drinking at a hotel here, she said she was returning to Columbia after visiting her older boy at Statesville. In response to another query, she said it might be true, but she had never attempted to analyze her feelings and perhaps some of her widowhood might have never occurred, had she been more fortunate in her choice of husbands.

This girl, who, at the age of fourteen, was a pipe organist at a large church and active in the affairs of that religious institution, then began moralizing, and said: "Happiness cannot be bought, neither have I been happy since my schoolgirl days. I don't suppose I ever will be happy, and the only hope I have is that Christian people will help me save myself. I'd like to be happy but I don't seem to be able to stop drinking whisky."

She shuddered visibly as she remarked: "I am afraid, and I've got to go back to jail."

Summer makes some people stop missing booze and start missing beer. It is easy to see why skirts are

THE STATE UNIVERSITY

Is the Oldest State University in America.—Charter Granted in 1789. Chapel Hill, N. C., June 19.—The University of North Carolina, the oldest State university in America, was provided for in the first State Constitution. Its charter was granted in 1789, and the cornerstone of the first building was laid in 1793. By 1795 students were admitted. Thus, the active life of the university began, but during the days of reconstruction, from 1870 to 1875, its doors were closed. Since 1875, although its sailing has not always been smooth, the University of North Carolina has been on the upgrade.

The University campus of 48 acres and approximately 550 acres of forest contiguous to it were given by citizens of Orange County, in which the institution is located. All the buildings put up for 112 years were given by friends of the University. The first direct appropriation from the State, made by the General Assembly, was \$50,000 for a chemistry building in 1905.

During the War Between the States the University gave its best to the cause of the Confederacy. In the days of reconstruction following, it was stripped of its funds and much of its property and equipment was destroyed.

During the first eighty years of its existence, the University received no maintenance money from the State. When it was reopened, following five years of idleness, in 1875, it had practically nothing but empty halls and meager contributions from loyal friends. The interest from what was known as the Land Script Fund was turned over to it. This amounted to about \$7,500. But it was later withdrawn.

The General Assembly of 1881 made the State's first maintenance appropriation—\$5,000, to cover one year. Little by little, the annual upkeep fund voted by the State was increased. For more than a score of years, however, the institution had to practice frugality to exist. However, it held its own.

Maintenance appropriations, beginning with the small sum above mentioned, have steadily increased, until they now approximate considerably more than a half million a year. Students fees amount to about \$165,000 and the University realizes about \$81,000 from invested funds and about \$52,000 from other sources.

The General Assembly of 1923 voted a building fund of \$1,050,000, and the General Assembly of 1925 a building fund of \$800,000.

There have recently been erected at the University three dormitories, accommodating 120 students, a new chemistry building and a women's building. In addition, improvements have been made on the water and heating systems.

The attendance at the University of North Carolina for the year 1922-23, not including the summer school, reached 2,000. The attendance last year approximated 2,500. During the session of 1917-1918 the total was 855. The 1,000 mark was passed during the session of 1918-1919, when the total attendance was 1,156.

The first president of the University was Joseph Caldwell, who served from 1894 to 1895. His successors have been: David L. Swain—1895-1898. Solomon Pool—1898-1870. University Closed—1870-1875. Kemp T. Battle—1876-1891. George T. Winston—1891-1896. Edwin A. Alderman—1896-1900. Francis P. Venable—1900-1914. Edwin Kidder Graham—1914-1918. Harry W. Chase—Incumbent.

RESIGNATION OF POTEAT STORY IS BEING DENIED

Baptist Church Paper Published in Louisville Carries Story.—Carolina Readers Upset. Raleigh, June 18.—Raleigh trustees of Wake Forest college put down as wholly without foundation an article appearing in the current issue of The Western Recorder, big Baptist weekly, of Louisville, Ky., to the effect that Dr. William Louis Poteat had resigned the presidency of Wake Forest.

Rev. Dr. Livingston Johnston, editor of The Biblical Recorder, and Rev. Dr. R. T. Vann, associate educational director of the Baptist state convention, both trustees of Wake Forest, assured that there was nothing whatever to the story in the Louisville paper.

It was assured the weekly had picked up some newspaper reports of a month or two ago that Dr. Poteat might resign. It is edited by Dr. Victor Masters, who was described by local Baptists as a "strenuous" if not an "extreme" fundamentalist. The paper has some circulation in this state, and inquiry had been made by readers who had been made by the Poteat story.

Modernism.

Ottawa, Kan., Herald. It was a wonderful wedding. The girl was as sweet as any girl who ever lived, but modern. As he walked up the aisle on her father's arm, her lips lightly tilted at the corners with a happy smile, she was a picture of modest beauty. Her filmy wedding gown and gossamer veil floated around her fair blonde head like a halo. She was as nearly an angel as girls get to be in this world. At the altar as she passed from her father, the other man she had always loved, to the other man to whom she would devote the rest of her life, her dainty slipper touched a turned lily resting on the floor and pattered it over. Smiling again, she turned to the dear old pastor waiting at the chancel and said: "That was a hell of a place to put a lily."

SCOPES, THE EVOLUTIONIST, BELIEVES BIBLE INSPIRED

Facing Tennessee Trial, He States Faith in Christianity. Chattanooga, Tenn., June 19.—John T. Scopes, Rhea county teacher, to be tried July 10 at Dayton on a charge of teaching evolution in violation of a State law, declared today in outlining his position that "I am a Christian and I believe the Bible is divinely inspired and that Jesus Christ did exist."

He added that at the same time man had evolved from a lower order of animal and that the story of the creation as told in the Bible does not conflict with science, pointing out when God said He created man as His own image and likeness He did not say in what material form.

The North Carolina College Commission, created by the General Assembly of 1909, is composed of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, chairman, ex-officio, and four other members appointed by the governor. Its functions are: To prescribe and enforce rules relating to the conferring of degrees by educational institutions; to investigate financial conditions, equipment, facilities and standards of educational institutions applying for authority to confer degrees, and to grant licenses to same when requirements are met; to revoke licenses in failure to maintain standards, subject to right of review by a judge of the Superior Court.

No ad valorem taxes on real estate or personal property for state purposes are levied in North Carolina. That form of taxation is left with the counties. Neither is it necessary to pay a poll tax in order to vote in this state. A poll tax, however, is levied.

Food experts say people eat less since the war. That's fine. But they pay more for it.

Germans are growing Hindenburg mustaches. Which is what the women get for electing him.

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