

# "Jazz" and "Nagging" Rank High Among Chief Causes for the Shocking Number of Divorces—One to Every Three Marriages



By A. R. GROH.

"Jazz" marriages, "cali" marriages, war marriages and "snap" marriages are chiefly responsible for the shocking number of divorces in Douglas county, Nebraska, the divorce center of the universe, where there is a divorce for every three marriages!

This is the solemn judgment of the judges before whom comes the never-ending procession of husbands and wives seeking freedom.

The "jazz" marriage is like this: Bert meets Gladys at a dance, with or without a formal introduction.

"Gee, but he's a swell dancer," Gladys tells Tessie, her fellow clerk at the dime store, the next day.

"Some baby doll!" murmurs Bert to himself next day, as he drives over his laundry route.

And so they get married.

**And the Cali Kind.**

Gladys soon finds that dancing is, after all, not a very important accomplishment in married life. Bert discovers that Gladys's spit curls look very different over a badly cooked dinner than they did at the dance.

And so they start quarreling and the divorce follows in a few weeks or months.

The "cali" marriage goes thus: Aswald (aet. 18) meets Dolly, 17. Both are young and in each other's eyes, exceeding fair. Also unsophisticated and green as the grass that grows in the dell. Oh, much greener.

But the poor little squirts feel the first stirrings of that divine passion, which, if allowed to grow, might blossom into something worth while.

**Then They Wake Up.**

And, not having any mental balance or self-control, they run away one Saturday afternoon with \$14 between them. He about their ages and get married.

Then they wake up. Outraged parents rush into the courts and do what they can to get the silly blunder corrected.

The war marriage has come in for much comment. Young chaps, stationed here and there, in military camps, far from home, lonely, met girls and, thinking they were going "across" and perhaps would never come back, decided in their unatypical mental states to get married, did

get married and now are getting divorced in large numbers.

The "snap" marriage goes thus: Gets "Carried Away."

Pete Dickenheimer gallops into the Bumble Bee cafe for dinner. He's just in off the ranch. A waitress smiles at him. She is different from the plain girls back home, he thinks. Pete is "carried away."

"What do you say, we get married?" he propositions.

The waitress is tired of working and figures that "these rubes has all kinds of coin."

"You look good to me," says she.

They proceed to the court house together. The license is issued, the judge ties the knot and that evening Pete is on his way home with his bride to the ranch that he loves.

**Farnam Street Lights.**

But to the bride there is no charm in the ranch. She longs for the fleshpots of Egypt, the bright lights of Farnam street, the movies, taxicabs, cafes, street cars and the rest of it.

"If I'd o' known you was bringing me to this graveyard I'd never have married you," says she.

"You knew I was a rancher," Pete comes back. "Did you think my ranch was in the middle of a city?"

"Well, I'm going back," says the bride.

"Well, I ain't," says Pete. Maybe he gives her carfare. Maybe not.

The divorce follows in due season. And, if Pete has money, his little snap marriage is apt to cost him half his ranch.

Marriages of normal nature end in the divorce courts for various reasons, principal among which, apparently, is poverty, according to the records.

This preponderance of divorces among the poor, however, is due, very likely, to the fact that there are so many more poor people than rich ones. By far the greater number of divorces are granted without alimony because the parties concerned have no property.

Wealth, indeed, may be the direct cause of divorce. There is the case of Mr. and Mrs. B. They lived for 15 years happily in a small town in western Nebraska. Then wealth flowed into their coffers. They built a handsome home. The wealth demanded considerable business travel by the husband. He got to the fine hotels of the big cities. He drove a fine car.

**Here Comes the Vamp.**

And the "vampires" of the city looked with favor upon him and upon his loose bankroll. He drove with them in his car.

In time, news of this filtered through to his faithful wife in the small town. Frantically she set detectives on his trail. The husband found this out. Mutual concubinage was shattered. She sued for a divorce and got it, together with \$50,000 alimony.

The "other" man or woman is the cause of many more divorces than the local court records confess.

Here is a typical case and an example of why the "other" woman or man doesn't appear in the court records:

Charles and Margaret are happily married. They have been married for six years and have a son, 4 years old.

In Charles' office is a beautiful stenographer. She has fresh, pink cheeks, lovely, lumpy eyes and her hair curls lovingly down over her forehead as she takes daily dictation. She wears alluring crepe de chine dresses and "she knows how much it is best to show" of her snowy bosom. Her silk stockings and French slippers complete the pretty picture.

A good girl, mind you, but with admiration even from married men.

"You're looking mighty sweet today, Dorothy," breathes Charles one day after he has finished some dictation. Dorothy blushes.

**There is Only One End.**

"Oh, you mustn't say such things, Mr. Blank," she murmurs, and hastens from the room to primp some more. And next day, you can bet your bottom dollar, she doesn't do anything to look less "sweet."

After this has gone on for some time it goes farther. And when it has gone farther both persons find it impossible to stop.

Mrs. Blank notices the difference in her husband's manner toward her. The "fat is in the fire." And then one evening, in desperation, he confesses.

"I'm going to divorce you and I'm going to name that girl as co-respondent," exclaims "the outraged wife."

"That will be nice for our boy," grumbles Mr. Blank.

Ah, yes, the blank.

**Leave It to "Bunk."**

"Now, I'll tell you the best way," says Mr. Blank. "You go to Bunk, the lawyer. He'll put it through all right and nobody will ever know I'll arrange the alimony so that you'll be fixed comfortably."

And that divorce suit will be filed with a mere allegation by the wife of "cruelty" without any details. The "triangle" will be completely concealed.

"Answer day" having come and passed without an answer by the husband, Mrs. Blank travels up to the court house with Bunk, the lawyer. They step before a judge. Mr. Blank is not present.

"He has been notified," says Bunk. "My husband has been cruel," says Mrs. Blank. "Once he swore at me."

"Ever strike you?" asks the judge.

"Yes, I think he did, once, slapped me a little."

The judge writes a few words in his docket and the divorce is granted.

Then there is the mother-in-law cause of divorce.

It is a strange fact that mothers despite all their wisdom and knowledge of the children they bring up seldom learn that they should not live with their daughters after they have married.

"No house in the world is big enough for a married couple and the parents of either of them," one of the judges of the local district bench has declared repeatedly.

"Sloppiness" on the part of either husband or wife has started many a divorce. Having seen the "loved one" only when all "dolled up" before marriage, the shock of seeing him or her after marriage, unshaven, uncombed, unwashed or in slovenly attire is often a fatal blow to the tender flower of love. And, although slovenliness is not a legal ground for divorce, it soon leads to those things which are legal grounds.

**Nagging is Cruel.**

"Nagging" is alleged in many divorce petitions as reason for divorce. It is recognized in the Nebraska law, too. It comes under the general head of "cruelty." "Nagging" is just as cruel as a blow of the fist, in the eyes of the law.

The "wanderlust" is also responsible for many a divorce. Bill, who has married Harriet in the fall, feels the "call of the road" in the spring. He's tired of the bonds of matrimony already and longs for freedom. And, being a person without property, without a sense of responsibility or decency, he takes to the open road, and in due time this deserted wife gets her legal separation.

These be the rocks and shoals and whirlpools, the hurricanes and typhoons that threaten the good ship "Matrimony" when it puts out upon the high seas, bound for the haven of "Happiness."

The appalling fact is that in Douglas county one matrimonial ship out of every three is totally wrecked.

How many arrive at the port of "Happiness" nobody knows. Nobody knows.

Ben Turpin is an excited man. Charlie Murray says. He has received a mashing letter from an impressionable—more likely blind—damsel who says she has fallen in love with his eyes.

**She'll Return Soon.**

Elsie Ferguson is on the last lap of her trip around the world, being en route from England to the United States. She will go at once to the Lasky studio in Hollywood, California, to make a Paramount picture of "Sacred and Profane Love," in which she appeared on Broadway last season.

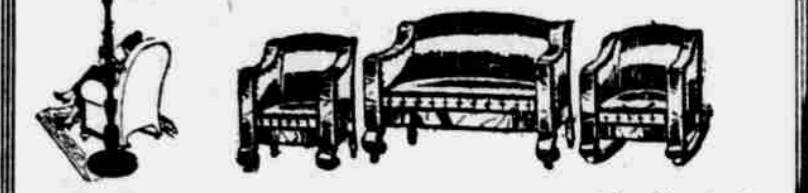
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And yet you ask, "Can Chiropractic Cure the Flu?"

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—James G. Greggerson.

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