

CUSTODY OF TWO CHILDREN STAKE IN DIVORCE SUIT

Sordid Story of Sloans' Married Life Told by Witnesses in District Court.

A story of matrimonial misadventures was unfolded in district court yesterday at a hearing before Judge Bert Fesler to determine who shall be given custody of an infant son and daughter.

The principals are Minnie Camill Sloan, age 27 and her husband Cecil Gerald Sloan, also 27, alleged to have been married at Antigo, Wis., April 6, 1911. They lived happily, according to testimony introduced yesterday, until Sloan entered the army in September, 1917, while they were living at Ashland, Wis.

Mother-in-law Testifies.

"While the husband was in the army, his mother Mrs. Rose Sloan, 32 West Second street, Duluth, assumed a voluntary guardianship over the family of her son, she told the court yesterday. Her son had been in the service only a few months, she testified when the young Mrs. Sloan began to accept the attentions of other men in Ashland, Wis. The elder Mrs. Sloan testified that her daughter-in-law, in March, 1918, was examined as to her mental condition and was sent to the state asylum at Winnetago, Wis.

Sloan returned from the service Dec. 1, 1918, only three months after his wife had been released from the insane asylum according to an affidavit filed in district court by Mrs. Sloan. A few days later, he is alleged to have taken up life in Ironwood, Mich., living as the husband of one Anna Nolden. The affidavit asserts that a child was born to the woman, after which Sloan again moved, this time to Lansing, Mich., where he became engaged in a shoe business, the younger Mrs. Sloan's charges.

She and her two children had come to Duluth to live with Sloan's mother. Mrs. Rose Sloan, the mother-in-law testified yesterday. Everything went well, until the daughter-in-law, Mrs. Sloan testified, began to neglect her children to be in the company of her men friends. In spite of her remonstrances, she told the court that the young wife often remained out with men until early morning and on one occasion, Mrs. Sloan testified, she journeyed to Minneapolis to meet a man with whom she exchanged frequent letters, it is alleged.

Tells of Letters.

Five alleged "love missives," which Sloan's mother and sister testified were received by the young wife from an admirer, were introduced at the hearing yesterday. The younger Mrs. Sloan promptly denounced them as "fakes" and refused to identify them as letters which she had ever received. Mrs. Hazel Lazar, Sloan's sister, told the court she had abstracted the missives from Mrs. Sloan's muff after the latter had been mysteriously absent from her Duluth home over a Saturday and Sunday. A Minneapolis man also visited Mrs. Sloan in this city last July, Mrs. Lazar testified.

One of the alleged "love letters" which Mrs. Lazar testified came just before Mrs. Sloan's absence over the week end contains an invitation to visit Minneapolis as the guest of her alleged male admirer, telling what a good time they would have and making arrangements for their meeting.

Sloan Visits Home.

Last Sunday Sloan visited his wife at his mother's home in Duluth, demanding his children the younger woman asserts. He wanted to take them back to Lansing with him, he is alleged to have told her. But she refused to part with them, and he left the home without them, she asserted in court yesterday.

When she returned from church that day, Sloan's mother and sister attacked her while she was in her bedroom dressing, according to the affidavit the wife has filed. She alleges, they forcibly removed her children to another part of the house, refusing to allow her to see them. She now seeks a court order, restraining her husband or anyone acting for him, from removing the children from the state of Minnesota.

She next instituted divorce proceedings upon grounds of desertion, with additional allegations as to her husband's relations with the Nolden woman at Ironwood, according to Mrs. Rose Sloan.

Sloan immediately filed a counter-complaint, alleging that his wife had neglected their children while he was in the army and that she has conducted herself improperly with other men.

Sloan was not present in court yesterday. His attorney explained that he was traveling in northern Minnesota as a salesman. The court adjourned the hearing until April 10, granting Mrs. Rose Sloan custody of the children until that time, with instructions not to remove them from the state.