

Dancer's Wife Waltzed Out Of His Life



Mr. E. T. Real

PROCEEDINGS instituted in October, 1929, but which, like Mahomet's coffin, had remained in a state of suspension in the interim, were brought to finality in the Divorce Court on Friday last, when his Honor the Chief Justice (Sir William Webb) granted a decree nisi to Matthew George Lominoga, otherwise known as "Matt Lomina," for years prominent in Brisbane terpsichorean circles, and freed completely him from the wife with whom he had not lived since 1923.

Champion dancer, and teacher of the ballroom art, under the name of "Matt Lomina," petitioner court that the reason for the delay was that he had not the means to costs, nor to give the necessary security when she entered a defence in the court. Not until recently, when he had sufficient to satisfy the demands made at that time, as well as his own costs, proceed towards securing his freedom.

On Matt's figures, there isn't a teaching dancing.

HIS wife, formerly Phyllis Ignatius, left him in 1923, Lominoga swore. Because of her spending powers he fell into arrears and was forced to leave his War Service home at Coorparoo, and he then went to Jane-street, West End, to live with his mother. It was from the West End address that his wife walked out on him.

ADULTERY ALLEGED.

The petition alleged that in 1924-25 defendant, who did not appear, committed adultery with some person unknown. Proof of this charge was effected by the production of a photostat copy of the original registration of the birth of a child in 1925, and signed by the respondent. There were two legitimate children issue of the marriage.

Police Inspector Patrick Howard, identified the registration as having been compiled by himself, and signed by Phyllis Lominoga, when he was in charge of the Kangaroo Point Police Station. The information contained in the form was provided by Mrs. Lominoga.

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Other evidence tendered in the course of the hearing was that, after the separation, Mrs. Lominoga had sued the dancing master for maintenance. An order was made by consent, under which the wife was to receive 30/- for herself, and, petitioner declared, he added an additional £1 for the benefit of the children.

ORDER QUASHED

After he had found the damning evidence of his wife's unfaithfulness, Lominoga went on, he applied to the court for a variation of the maintenance order, and it was quashed.

When his wife filed a defence in response to the issue of the petition in 1929, Lominoga said he was asked for £60, which he didn't possess. He added that it had taken him all this time to save enough money to proceed.

Petitioner stated further that his earnings had been so low during recent years that he had not been required to pay any income tax.

"But you are an able-bodied man," his Honor remarked. "You should have been able to secure suitable employment."

Petitioner replied that he could not. He is now engaged as a truck-driver by Butler Bros., with a little dancing tuition as a side line.

Mr. E. T. Real for petitioner.