

Ding Dong Daddy Wearily Pulls Stop Cord on Romance

The former marrying Ding Dong Daddy of San Francisco's D car line pulled the one-bell stop cord on romance yesterday.

The twinkle gone from his eye, and showing the weight of his 69 years, Francis Van Wie told a Los Angeles judge:

"I don't want to get married again. I just want to die in peace."

This was the same one-time streetcar conductor whose ventures into multiple matrimony—some sixteen wives on record—had startled the nation in recent years.

The wee Van Wie, bald and rolypoly, went into court on his own initiative yesterday.

In the past he usually was hauled in there by some new

member of the "Wives of Van Wie" sorority, on a claim that he had failed to obtain a prior divorce.

Van Wie went into court this time to obtain a divorce from a onetime wife of the distant past, Mabel Joyce. He didn't know if his transfer from her was punched in divorce court, back in 1924.

Or, as Van Wie told the judge, he feared his marriage to Mabel may not have been legally dissolved.

Judge Samuel R. Blake granted the divorce, and cautioned Van Wie that he could not marry again for at least a year.

It was then that Van Wie renounced marriage and walked wearily from the courtroom.
Bong!