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## **Mayor's Husband Arrested for Drunk and Disorderly Conduct**

by Mathilda Gregory, Editor-in-Chief

Gunner Truelove, husband of Hardy Falls mayor Margo Truelove, was arrested on August 19th at 2:30 AM after he was observed walking through the Maplewood Estates neighborhood in a “drunken manner,” while loudly singing show tunes, holding an empty bottle of rum, and wearing nothing but a smile.

Dazzle the chihuahua set off the alarm at approximately 2:00 AM when he started barking.

“He might be a little dog, but his bark is like a smoke alarm going off,” said Mr. Edward Looper, Dazzle’s owner. “I shouted at him to shut up, but when he didn’t, I got up to see what was going on. That’s when I realized Gunner Truelove was dancing naked on my front lawn. I never want to see that much of him again,” he added.

When Mr. Truelove fell into a hydrangea and “smashed it flat,” Mr. Looper called the police. Officer Harry Newman arrived on the scene approximately five minutes later.

Mr. Truelove was reportedly belligerent when confronted and allegedly swung his empty rum bottle at Officer Newman in an aggressive manner. At the same time, he rolled in the hydrangea, trying to get to his feet, damaging the plant beyond repair.

“You’d think the sticks up his butt would have stopped him, “ said Mr. Looper sadly, “but he just kept flailing around. It will never be the same.”

Mr. Truelove eventually staggered to his feet and lunged at Officer Newman, but the younger man was able to subdue him. Mr. Truelove ended up back on the ground.

“I’d like to take credit for it, but he basically lost his balance and fell, “ Officer Newman said wryly.

Officer Newman then tried to administer a Breathalyzer test, but Mr. Truelove resisted violently. According to Officer Newman, Mr. Truelove swung his fist and connected with the police officer’s jaw.

“I was a little distracted trying to avoid his, uh, privates,” said Officer Newman.

After that, the gloves were off, so to speak. Mr. Truelove was forced onto his stomach, and his hands were handcuffed behind his back. Police Chief Jacqueline Kline arrived on the scene to

assist, and together she and Officer Newman wrestled a still protesting Truelove into the back of Newman's police cruiser. He was then taken to the police station, and charged with drunk and disorderly conduct, public nudity, destruction of private property, and resisting arrest.

After the wounds inflicted by the hydrangea bush on Mr. Truelove's posterior were treated, he was given some pants and put in a holding cell to wait for arraignment.

Mayor Truelove was notified of her husband's circumstances and arrived at the police station shortly after his booking was complete.

"Nothing but lies," stated Mayor Truelove when we reached her for comment. "My husband didn't do anything wrong. We have no proof that he was drunk or nude before he was taken to the police station. Simply the word of Officer Newman and a man who owns a chihuahua."

Although Chief Kline refused to comment on the case, we spoke to several witnesses who were able to confirm that Mr. Truelove was attending a party at Claude Beecher's house, located just down the street from Mr. Looper. According to those sources, Mr. Truelove was intoxicated at the party and barely able to stand. He was observed walking down the street while removing all of his clothing.

"I heard him say, 'I'm free! I'm finally free of her!'" said one witness, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "I think the chief got his clothes when she came to interview us."

When Mayor Truelove was asked to respond, she remained defiant.

"All I'll say is that if I'd known what was going on, I would have contacted the State Police again. Trooper Jerold handled everything very fairly when I was assaulted in the dress shop a few weeks ago."

"I won't comment on Mayor Truelove's opinion," said Chief Kline when informed of the mayor's statements, "but I'd like to remind everyone that I have jurisdiction in Hardy Falls. She should not have called the State Police when the incident occurred at the dress shop, and they should have notified me as soon as she did. Trooper Jerold and I have had words about that situation, and it will not be repeated."

As tensions rise between the Hardy Falls mayor and the chief of police, we are left wondering if things will continue to escalate. Although the town council is truly in charge of what happens in town, the mayor does have influence and can make things difficult for Chief Kline in the future – especially since the police department and the city hall are located right next to each other.

Mayor Truelove's first year in office has certainly been interesting!