

Dad blames self, society for her death

Life was easy for

By JAMES SPEARS

Rae Marie Arrance, 19, was a heroin addict and a prostitute. She lived off the streets for five years, soon after her mother brought her and three other children from Prince George and moved into skid road.

Rae Marie was a beautiful girl who found life easy on skid road. At 14 she started on soft drugs and became a "chippie" according to her father.

About noon Wednesday she and Kathy Reid, 23, bought a heroin capsule and looked for a place to "fix." They found the underground public washroom at Main and Hastings, and played the game of deadly roulette addicts play whenever they shoot heroin.

Rae Marie died in hospital of an overdose at about 2:30 p.m. Her companion was found unconscious by police in the washroom and lived.

Although police are investigating the possibility someone gave her a "hot" capsule, they say Rae Marie already had taken eight capsules of "Twinals," a barbiturate sleeping pill. Her companion hadn't taken pills.

Society may have been too easy on Rae Marie. She found it easy on skid road and easy in court. She was in trouble at 14 but juveniles don't have criminal records. At 17, she was raised to adult court on a



Rae Marie Arrance and her father last Christmas

disturbance charge and given six months probation.

Here are other charges against her:

1971: Charged and convicted for possessing stolen property and carrying a concealed weapon. An appeal court reversed the conviction and she was freed.

1971: Charged with burglary; acquitted.

1972: Charged with theft; acquitted. Charged with vagrancy; charge withdrawn. Charged with possession of narcotics; charge withdrawn.

1973: Charged and convicted of soliciting for the purpose of prostitution. Sentenced to one year's probation in the care of her father, Albert Arrance, who operates a cafe in the 2500 block Kingsway.

She was convicted Monday

who wants to can walk away at will.

Arrance said he has 12 children. Three in Vancouver are under the Catholic agency, and because they live on skid road — the scene of Rae Marie's death — he says there has been neglect. He wants the three put under the care of another agency with strong discipline and — until they can be helped — under lock and key.

After police informed Arrance of Rae Marie's death Wednesday, he said, he went down to Steam's Hot Dogs, 50 East Hastings, and found another daughter soliciting.

He took her back to the rear of the cafe where he lives, which is infested with mice and cockroaches, and "whaled the living Christmas out of her." The time was 1 a.m. Thursday, he said. She left sometime between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. Thursday, and hasn't been seen since.

He said two sons, 15 and 16, also hang out on skid road. The 16-year-old, says Arrance, has no education or training for anything. He's a skid road bum now says Arrance, and he sniffs glue and takes drugs. "He's got no future."

The 15-year-old is also a skid road bum, he said.

Arrance cares for four children in the rear of the cafe, for which he pays \$175 a month. The Children's Aid provides a homemaker service but Arrance was caring for Stewart, 4; Danny, 5, Brenda, 8; and Allan, 12.

Rae Marie

Thursday. His cafe was closed earlier in the week by the health department. Arrance moved a refrigerator and defecation of mice literally made the floor appear black.

Arrance uses the language of the street, and says he's not the best father in the world, but he came to The Province in desperation to do something before he loses control.

He wanted the secure and uncaring citizens of Vancouver to know what happens to 14-year-old girls on skid road; how upstanding citizens can go down to Hastings and buy the services of a girl for \$10 or \$15 and how some citizens buy the girls three at a time.

He told the story of a customer of his cafe who walked in and started bragging about how he got three girls in a room at once. "He was a dirty old man of about 50," said Arrance.

The man then told him that the best girl on skid road was named Rae Marie, and that he was in love with Rae. The man told Arrance he gave money to Rae for narcotics.

Arrance said the death of his daughter was a murder, and the murderers were himself and his former common-law wife, child-care agencies, police and magistrates.

Society was too good to Rae Marie while she lived, he said, and he didn't want to see his other children die through the same "goodness."