

MASQUERADED AS YOUTH AND WORKED AS BELLBOY.

Babel Edison Arrested in San Francisco After Wearing Male Attire for Three Months—How She Came to Change Her Garb—Says She Always Wanted to Be a Boy.



EDISON,
Who masqueraded in boy's clothes.

MISS EDISON
As Theodore Hoffman.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

San Francisco, Nov. 1.—Mabel Edison has been detained by the San Francisco police for masquerading in male attire.

She is only 22 years of age and her face is not unattractive, splendid brown eyes, well set and of the liquid type, relieving the plainness of what would otherwise be very ordinary features. The chief reason she gives for abandoning the apparel of her sex is that the experience she would gain would some day enable her to write a book.

Miss Edison has been called Theodore Hoffman for the last two months and a half in hotels of this city and Los Angeles, where she has been working as a bell boy.

She wore a blue wrapper when she received newspaper men and curious policemen in the matron's quarters in the city prison.

Her brown hair, which is very fine in texture and cut in regulation Johnny style, was plastered flat on the sides from a military crease through the center.

Her dress clung to her slight figure, and it was not hard to believe that she had been able to successfully conceal her sex in trousers and the other articles of a man's garb.

She seemed to be pleased at a request to discuss herself, and only needed a suggestion now and then to keep her story moving.

"What in the world ever put it into your head to wear a man's clothes?"

The voice that answered this question had a decidedly masculine tone.

WANTED TO BE A BOY.
"I always wanted to be a boy; I always wanted to do things like one."

"My mother died when I was 10 years old, and, my father being dead, I was left alone just when I most needed some one to look after me."

"Was your voice as deep and masculine before you abandoned skirts as it is now, or did that come with association with a man's attire?"

"No; I have trained it that way. Before I put on boy's clothes it was much sharper. As I was saying, I always wanted to be a boy, because they seem to be so much freer and can go where they please and do what they please."

"Gold Beach, Ore., is my birthplace. Besides an aunt and a sister, whom I have not seen in a long time, I have no other relatives."

"San Francisco has been my home for the last seven years."

"I have been through the grammar grades and part of a year in a high school."

"My own resources have kept me going, except for a little help in the way of money from aunt from time to time."

"I started out as a telephone operator at a salary of \$20 a month, and just managed to exist on it."

"Of course, I couldn't buy any clothes—that was out of the question—and when they raised me to \$22.50 it made the existence no easier."

"I was not well when I was in the tele-

phone company, and the little money I managed to scrape together by economy and from what my aunt sent me went for doctors' bills.

"Two months and a half ago I just felt I couldn't stand the strain any longer, and decided to carry out the plan that often had suggested itself of wearing boy's clothes."

"I selected Los Angeles and worked there at the Nadeau Hotel and the Angeles."

"Why did you pick out the work of a bell boy? Didn't you want to be something else?"

"It was the only thing that I could think of. I had been around hotels and knew just about what the work of bell hops was."

"A barber cut my hair as you see it now, and then I bought an outfit of secondhand clothes."

"There was no difficulty in getting a job, and as soon as I got the money together I had a suit made to order."

"Did no one suspect that you were a woman, not even the tailor when he measured you for the clothes?"

"I watched his face while he was measuring me to see if it changed in expression—I thought that he might suspect—but if the thought entered his mind that I was not a boy he didn't indicate it."

"The season was bad in Los Angeles—it's a cheap town anyway—and one night I had a fight with one of the other boys and decided to come north to San Francisco."

"I had no more difficulty in getting a job here than I had in the south."

"The California Hotel gave me a position to answer bells, and so far as I know no one in the house ever thought that I was anything but what I appeared to be."

"How could you mingle with the other boys as you must have had to do and keep your secret so well?"

"I really don't know. It didn't seem difficult. I drank with them and smoked cigarettes, for they all use tobacco in one form or another."

She didn't blush as she made this admission, as she might have been expected to do, but dropped her eyes and when she looked up again it was with a shamed face.

"I had to do those things or I couldn't have gotten on at all."

"They didn't hurt me."

"The average amount made by a bell boy in this town is \$40 a month, but some make a great deal more, and dress like millionaires' sons."

REHEARSING FOR THE BENEFIT.

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Better and brighter than ever the Hot Time Minstrels' performance will be this year, according to the young members of this fashionable and successful amateur musical organization.

The performance will be given Monday evening, December 1, at the Odessa, for the