

MISS JOAN ESSNER, ART STUDENT, Jumps From a Wharf.

Of Romantic Disposition, She Imagines She Is Badly Treated and Tries to End Existence.

The mystery surrounding the attempted suicide of the girl who drank laudanum and then jumped off the Lombard-street wharf early yesterday morning is solved. Miss Joan Essner, the girl who resides with her parents in the rooming and upholstering store at 1713 Polk street, is the young lady who committed the rash act. She is none the worse for her experience and is in a present stopping with friends of her parents.

Miss Essner is of a very nervous and emotional temperament, and her home life, she claims has not been a happy one. Up to a few months ago she resided with her grandmother on Leavenworth street. She could not live amicably with this relative and returned to her home. Then her grandmother also moved into the same domicile. Sharp words were exchanged Saturday between the young girl and her grandmother. It is generally considered that as she could not live happily at home she would commit suicide.

In the afternoon she purchased a bottle of laudanum at Val Schmidt's drug store at 24th and Jackson streets. After taking a taste of the drug she found it so nauseating that she could not take more. She called on some girl friends and with them went to the Lombard-street wharf. She drank half a bottle of whisky in this establishment in the belief that this would make her feel better. Finding that this was also unavailing, she decided to resort to a more drastic remedy.

Miss Essner then went to dinner with a party of friends at Sausalito. At the close of the meal she excused herself from the party and went down to the water front. When she reached the Lombard-street wharf she divested herself of her coat and hat and without a moment's hesitation plunged into the waters of the bay. Some Italian fishermen were passing by in their boat at the time and they rescued her, and she was taken to the hospital in a condition. When she recovered consciousness she asked that Fred H. Jung, her cousin, and an attorney living on Broadway street, be called to the hospital. He came and took charge of the weeping girl. She telephoned from the hospital to her parents that she was feeling quite better and that she was thoroughly repentant.

Matthew E. Essner, the father of the girl, was seen last evening. He claims that his daughter is too high strung and sensitive and that everything possible to make her home life happy has been done. He also said that his daughter would return home to-day.

Several fellow students of Miss Essner who attend the Hopkins Institute of Art were seen last evening and they all said that the young lady's attempt to take her life was not at all surprising. They claim that Miss Essner is full of romance, and that she is of a very nervous temperament. That she is a "sensitive" girl and spends most of her leisure time attending theaters and reading sensationals. They also stated that she had received a very fine education, and that she keenly felt that her parents were German tradespeople and that on this account she was not able to assume the social position that she should aspire to.

DEATH OF GAS ENGINEER PREBAUGH

Joseph Preston Kills Himself Because His Wife Upbraids Him.

Joseph Preston, a bookkeeper for the telephone company, committed suicide this morning at his residence, 2523 California street, by turning on the gas and inhaling the deadly carbon monoxide vapor.

Preston was 35 years old and was a married man, having two children, a girl 5 years old and a boy of 5 years. He had been drinking heavily, and his conduct was the cause of frequent quarrels with his wife. Yesterday morning Preston returned to his home at 7 o'clock, being under the influence of liquor. He rode out on car 20 of the California street line, and some time after reaching his home he had some conversation with conductor Larabee, and the latter insisted that Preston should ride inside the car.

On reaching home Preston was upbraided by his wife, and he threatened to kill himself. He left his wife and children in the upper part of the house and went into the front parlor on the lower floor. His wife was not concerned at not seeing her husband, thinking that he was asleep. She went to the front room, and when she found the odor of gas, and started to find the cause. She traced the gas odor to the front parlor and found the door locked. She quickly realized that something terrible had happened. Mrs. Preston broke open the door and was overpowered by the gas. She was lying on the floor, and with a scream the terrified woman ran into the front parlor, where Dr. Shroyer was quickly summoned and on arriving at the house he found that Preston was dead. According to the doctor, Preston had some conversation with conductor Larabee, and the latter insisted that Preston should ride inside the car.

Dr. W. D. Clark of 2554 California street was notified and took charge of affairs. He is an old friend of Mrs. Preston, and he and his wife cared for the two children of the dead man. Mr. and Mrs. Watson, who live at 2227 California street, took Mrs. Preston to their home, where she spent the night. Dr. Shroyer was called for many hours, being unable to give any information as to her husband's death. According to the doctor, Mrs. Preston to Dr. Clark before she died. She told him that she had been married to her husband for 10 years. She said that she had been very happy, but that she had been threatened to kill his wife with a razor.

It was learned last night that Preston paid his salary by telephone company when his body was searched by the deputy coroner on the water front, and when the trunk of the car who held up a mortgage. The body was removed to the morgue and an autopsy and inquest will be held to-day.

Suspected of Crime.

Sergeant of Police Ellis yesterday arrested Joseph Courtland, aged 22 years, and locked him up in the tanks at the City Prison, pending an investigation. He was found on the water front, and when placed under arrest he threw away two phials containing "knockout" drops. In a possession of the drops, which is supposed to have been stolen. The police believe that Courtland is one of the men who held up a sailor on East street the other morning and robbed him of a silver watch and a purse containing \$20.

"OLD JED PROUTY" HANGS OUT HIS SIGN AT THE ALHAMBRA

"Cinderella" Continues to Fill the Tivoli, the California Has a Melodrama and the Orpheum Is Good as Usual.



MISS INEZ FORMAN, WHO WITH J. T. CROSBY IS FILLING AN ENGAGEMENT AT THE ORPHEUM, PRESENTING "A DUPLICATE HUSBAND," BY EDWIN B. TILTON, IN A MANNER THAT IS GIVING GENERAL SATISFACTION.

RICHARD GOLDEN, who opened last night at the Alhambra Theater in "Old Jed Prouty," had a hard-luck story to tell of his tribulations on his way to this city. At the end of the third act of his bright little pastoral Mr. Golden, who was enthusiastically called before the curtain, made then an explanation involving an apology.

In a quaint speech in good keeping with his assumed character Mr. Golden said that he and his company were snowbound for four days on their way here from Oregon; that they had only arrived just before the curtain rang up, and that in consequence of the fatigue of the journey the leading lady, Mrs. Golden, was unable to appear and for the present was at the Waldick Hospital. Mr. Golden accordingly asked that the audience should reserve judgment of the play until further hearing. "though, for his part, he thought it a pretty good show just as it stood," with which sentiment the audience showed its sympathy and agreement in the usual fashion.

"Old Jed Prouty" is quite the usual sort of play of the "Old Homestead" kind. The incidents differ, but the spirit accords. The kindly, shrewd old country innkeeper, Jed Prouty, who Mr. Golden plays with an admirable, quaint humor and finish, is a familiar character, but the rendering is clever enough to carry a more modern thrasher's conception. The long lost child is there, the mortgage, the countryman in town and the rest of it, but with the familiar materials Mr. Golden has woven a wholesome, humorous and bright little pastoral, which every one will enjoy.

Robert Craig shows veritable genius as the town clerk, Zach Wilcox. As good as any actor in the play is his fellow Melville Stanley Collins as Beacon Hill, the Boston drummer, Henry Rich as the scheming lawyer, Daney, and the latter man, Aaron Hemingway; Maurice Pike, Laurence Flynn, all fill well their respective parts.

Mrs. Golden's illness was responsible for the storm she and she showed other signs of the storm she had been through, but still she was a good deal of a woman. She proceeded to bring her to San Francisco. All the damage to the laqua seems to be done. She is a very good actress and toward the sea king was very more toward San Francisco. It was slow work when the lights were reached there were danger signals. A few minutes later the sea king long to pick her up, however, and tow her into Potato Cove. By this time the ebbs were running at the rate of about six miles an hour, and although the Rescue went to the assistance of the sea king, the two captains decided not to bring the laqua in until slack water. It was, therefore, after 1 o'clock this morning before she was run on the Mission mud flats.

As soon as possible the laqua will be put on the ways and overhauled. When her repairs are completed she will go back on her old run.

LITTLE DAMAGE DONE BY SACRAMENTO RIVER

MARYSVILLE, Jan. 6.—So far very little damage has been reported either from above or below because of the high water of the past few days in the Sacramento River and its tributary streams. At this city to-night the river registered fifteen feet, while the levee system of the town will stand twenty-two feet without danger. Since the construction of the weir at Elkhorn much of the force of the Sacramento River has been relieved, and very little fear is now felt by the residents of the river section of the floods which threatened until such time as they are ready for discharge.

The new comedy, and avails herself to the full of it. She is admirably supported by the various members of the Alcazar company, and the play seems to be in for a long run.

The "second edition" of the popular "Cinderella," which to-night begins its fourth week at the Tivoli Opera-house, is one of the most successful holiday specialties ever put on at a popular house. A number of new songs have been added, and the book of jokes is kept strictly up to date by that competent comic authority, Ferris Hartman.

"Woman and Wife," a huge melodrama with a large moral purpose, is announced for to-night at the Central Theater. The production will be identically the same as that given at the Academy of Music, New York, during a long and successful run. Over 100 people will appear on the stage.

Among the attractions of the week at the Orpheum are the five Orcaes, English comedy acrobats; J. P. Crosby and Inez Forman, William Cahill Davis, the Irish knockout comedians; Lucretia Vincent, Rosell Brothers, Nel, Montgomery and Antonio and Conchita Martinez.

Fischer's Concert-house has among its entertainers Or, Bernard and Or; Marie D. Wood, Sid Baxter, Mile. Atlanta, Rosell Brothers, Nel, Montgomery and Antonio and Conchita Martinez.

The sale of seats for the Henschel song recitals, to be given next month, will open this morning at Sherman & Clay's music store.

GROCERY CLERKS JOIN CAMPAIGN

Early Closing Movement Receives Their Earnest Indorsement.

The meeting of the grocery clerks held yesterday at B'nai B'rith Hall was a pronounced success. The enthusiasm which prevailed throughout the proceedings showed that a widespread interest in the movement has been kindled among all classes of the trade, and gave the clerks the utmost confidence in the ultimate result.

A Celebrated Figure and a Noted Character

Leaving town for Seattle. The great Japanese statue, long exhibited in the Art Bazaar, and Manager Dunn, originator of same resort, will exhibit here at Morrison's famous billiard and buffalo rooms till it's time to get let off at Buffalo.

Mysterious Circumstances in the Death of Mrs. G. W. Spooner.

Dr. Kuhlman Refuses to Sign Certificate and Husband Says He Does Not Care What Becomes of Body.

The body of a child-wife lays on a slab at the Morgue. Her span of life was less than eighteen years, yet she became a bride over three years and a half ago. Her aged husband sits sullen and indifferently in his room in a Howard-street lodging house, willing that her frail body should be given over to a medical college or buried in the potter's field. The attending physician, who for reasons of his own declines to certify as the cause of the child-wife's death, adds more mystery to the circumstances surrounding the passing of Mrs. George W. Spooner, formerly Corey L. Bailey.

Way back in the hills of Vermont on June 18th, George W. Spooner, who confesses to being at least 44 years of age, was in his room in a Howard-street city, Vt., to Corey L. Bailey, then scarcely 13 years of age, by Rev. H. W. Worthen, the wife of the latter being the only witness to the ceremony. The aged man got a flower-embossed certificate of marriage, setting forth these facts:

From one place to another she went, ever annoyed by Spooner, and finally she was obliged to leave her husband's home of stealing from him some \$200 which the woman claimed as her own.

Finally she was taken ill with rheumatism and found a shelter about a month or two ago at 1119 1/2 Howard street. But the seeds of disease were in her young bones and helpless and suffering with infirmity she was sent at the suggestion of Dr. Rosenthal to the City and County Hospital. Her condition was rapidly aggravated and she was placed in one of the wards.

Directly across the street from the entrance to the city's hospital reside T. C. Jansen, an employe of the Market-street Railway Company, and his wife. Recently he visited a friend in the hospital who was in the same ward with the sick girl-wife. Although in poor circumstances, the Jansens are kind and sympathetic, and the young woman's pitiful tale and caused her removal to their home some days before she died. They summoned the family physician, Dr. Charles G. Kuhlman, and he treated her at the Jansens' expense until she died.

Dr. Kuhlman refused to sign her certificate of death, notified the health officer and the coroner, and the body of the child-wife was removed to the morgue. "We took the woman in out of pure charity," said Jansen yesterday afternoon. "My wife was attracted to her while visiting a friend in the same ward and we brought her over here. My wife stayed by her bedside night and day until she died and closed her eyes in death. We would bury her if we could, but I thought to appeal to the papers for assistance."

"Under the provisions of law," said Dr. Kuhlman, "I just decline to sign of the child-wife. The law protects me, and I don't propose to say anything. I may not certify, but the coroner's inquest will have to do it. I don't want to say anything about the way the woman was treated at the City and County Hospital. She was nursed and attended by the Jansens, and I don't want to say more and I ain't going to the Morgue to see her."

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AMUSEMENTS.

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EVERY EVENING THIS WEEK. MATINEE SATURDAY. Special Engagement of RICHARD GOLDEN. And His Own Excellent Company. In the BEST OF ALL DOWN EAST PLAYS. OLD JED PROUTY. THE SWEETEST STORY EVER TOLD. SPECIAL PRICES: Evening—25c, 50c and \$1. Matinee—25c, 50c and \$1. Next Sunday Afternoon—The New York Manhattan Theatre Success, "A STRANGER IN STRANGE LAND," the Finest Farce Ever Written. First Time in This City. SPECIAL POPULAR PRICES.

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