

WOMAN FAKIR MAKES A CONFESSION

"Queen of the Fakirs," Maud Myrtle Johnson, formerly of Tacoma, whose picture adorns the record files of every street car office and railroad in the northwest, made a sensational confession of her trade yesterday, following her recapture in Everett.

She recounted her list of sham accidents with singular frankness, including her efforts in Tacoma to "bleed" the Tacoma Railway & Power company. Her only plea was that she be returned to Walla Walla, where she was sent in June, 1910, and where her eight-

months' baby has been held as ransom for her liberty.

A Good Fakir.

Maud Myrtle, as she was commonly known in Tacoma, operated here and in Seattle three years ago. She could control a hemorrhage, dislocation or spell of unconsciousness to her heart's content and proved a perplexing problem to physicians and claim office men.

"She could rasp her ribs together with an anguishing sound that you could hear from one end of a car to the other," says Claim

Agent O'Dell of the T. R. & P. company. "Her hemorrhage, usually caused by biting through a capsule of aniline dye, was so vivid that it convinced the most unsuspecting claim agent.

"She could tumble head first from a street car platform and roll around the pavement in such paroxysms of pain that the average physician would hustle the first aid remedies with his 'greatest speed. In fact, she lived up to her name—Queen of the Fakirs."

Maud Myrtle fell into her first

real trap when the Northern Pacific Railroad company prosecuted her in Clarke county. She had tumbled over a suit case in a passenger coach, feigned serious injury, and obtained \$1,200 damages from the railroad. Detectives followed her, learned the secret of her unusual trade, and arrested her.

The woman made such earnest pleas to the club women of Washington that the clubs in Tacoma, Seattle and Spokane took up her cause and induced ex-Governor Hay to pardon her conditionally.

She was taken to the home of Mrs. R. C. McCredie of Sunnyside, president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, and disappeared from her foster home eight months ago. She had not been heard of again, despite rewards for her arrest, until she was recaptured in Everett yesterday.

"Yes, you bet we know Maud Myrtle," said Captain of Detectives John Fitzgerald today. "She was a source of constant trouble around this part of the country. The trouble was that she could pull off a fake accident in such a

correct imitation of the real thing that it was hard to get any evidence against her. Usually when the evidence had been obtained, she would be completely out of sight. She had a dozen aliases, including Mrs. Edith Strong, Mrs. Grace Payton, Mrs. Maria Johnson, Mrs. N. L. Harelson, Mrs. May Thomas and Mrs. Francis B. Pastor. She carried a child with her most of the time, adding to the sense of injustice that she affected when she was injured."

Mrs. Johnson's story of her methods of extorting damages

from the street railway companies, as told yesterday in Everett, is unique.

"One of my tricks was, while on a train, to fall over a suit case or seat, in consequence of an uneven roadbed or a jolt of the cars. My lungs are very weak and such a jar would give me a hemorrhage. Sometimes I would sprain my ankle.

"The screw driver was a favorite fake. One of our men would release the fastenings on a handrail as a special train approached a terminal. Then when

I was alighting I would fall, clutching the loosened rail. This was always successful.

"The steam woman" was a member of the gang who would pretend to have been burned by escaping steam. The burns would be caused by citric acid. You can see that the nurse we had in our gang here became invaluable."

Mrs. Johnson said she had been led into the gang in 1896 by a crooked claim agent, who had obtained a large settlement for her, quite out of proportion to the seriousness of her mishap.

GOOD ROADS AND RICHES GO TOGETHER

TACOMA MERCHANT BELIEVES DEVELOPMENT OF METHODS OF TRAVEL ONE WAY TO BRING PROSPERITY TO TACOMA—AUTOMOBILES CAN DO GREAT THINGS FOR THE CITY.

(Continued From Page One.)

In fancy I can hear my grandfather chuckling his approval. Yet mush and milk are not difficult of attainment. And we COULD do more business if we had more automobiles and better roads.

The idea is not mine. It belongs to H. A. Rhodes, the merchant.

I don't imagine Merchant Rhodes calls himself a radical thinker. But he certainly isn't old-fashioned.

"We've tried long enough," he said today, "to persuade the T. R. & P. to extend their lines into the country roundabout Tacoma. Now we should improve the roads. Given good roads, the farmers can be depended on to supply themselves. Most of them have them now.

"You can readily understand what a complete system of hard-surface roads would do. It would benefit city man and farmer alike. It would double and treble the territory from which the city draws its commerce. In the days of horses and bad roads, the trip to town was not to be lightly undertaken. The loads the farmer brought to town were necessarily small. If he lived more than 10 miles from town, he didn't come in at all.

"With a good road and a machine, the farmer can come in 10 miles, or 20 miles, or 30 miles, and return—between meals! He can carry larger loads.

"Good roads will encourage more men to return to the soil. That will increase the agricultural output and have an effect of decreasing the cost of living. It will increase real estate values. More and more farmers will come into town with their produce and to purchase supplies.

"I believe that before many years the motor truck will have the place of steam roads and electric roads in handling short-haul freight. I believe we must prepare for that time.

"In preparing for it we should hard-surface the main roads, county as well as state, leading out of the towns. The initial cost will be large, perhaps. Later, when the means are available, we should hard-surface the inter-sections.

"I believe the farmers would be willing to bear a small added burden of taxation if they understood just how much they were going to get for the money.

"We should encourage the use of the motor truck and the motor bus for passengers. But before these can come into general use, we must have good roads.

"In England and on the continent, where the roads are uniformly perfect, the motor bus and motor truck have won from the railroads much of the short-haul business. If you move from one city to another, you do not think of shipping your household furniture by rail. You load it on a motor truck which trundles along level and hard country roads.

"When you reach your destination, going by train, you find your furniture at the door of your new home. It has been handled but twice, when loaded and again unloaded. The cost is much less.

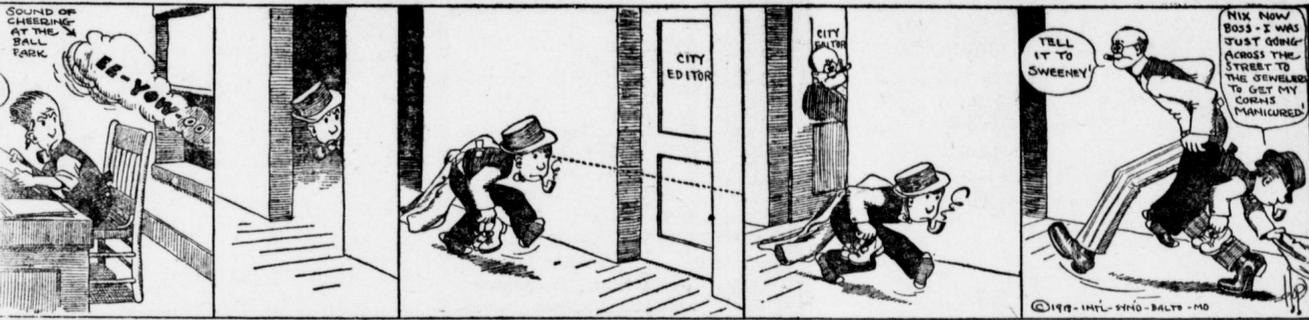
"But abroad they take care of their roads. So should we. Our tendency is, perhaps, to make a good road and then let it deteriorate. But it doesn't cost much to keep a good road in repair. I believe we should have road-menders—say one man to ten miles of road. It would be his work to watch his stretch of road and repair every small rut, depression or inequality of surface as soon as it appeared.

"I know of no other public improvement which would benefit so many people. I know of no investment that the public could make which would return surer dividends."

STORM HOME

DUBLIN, May 12.—Dispatches say suffragettes stormed the home of John Dillon, National member of parliament and broke every window. Dillon voted against the bill to give franchise to women.

Scoop, The Cub Reporter :: THERE WILL BE NO BALL GAME FOR YOU TODAY, SCOOP. :: By Hop



KIDNAPER LOST HIS NERVE AT LAST MINUTE

Tears either melted the heart or aroused the fears of a kidnaper Sunday afternoon on an interurban train between Kent and Tacoma and saved little Fred Dose, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Dose of Kent from being spirited away.

At 12:15 Mrs. Dose at Kent stepped across the street to buy a paper. Little Fred was at the house then. When she returned he was gone. No news of him was received until in the evening when she was informed from Tacoma that the boy was here.

Little Fred said he was approached on the corner near his home in Kent by a big man who wanted to know if he wanted some candy. Of course he did. The candy was bought and then the man picked the lad up and carried him onto an interurban train headed this way.

Nearing Auburn the boy began to cry lustily and the man got up and left the train at Auburn. Fred came on to Tacoma and was found at 11th and K streets and taken to police headquarters. His father, who is an architect and builder at Kent, came over and got him in the evening.

MARINE

Buckman, an Alaska Pacific Steamship company's steamer, left the Sound yesterday with a general freight for San Francisco.

Washnetaw, a Union oil steamer, arrived in port late Saturday night from San Francisco, and is discharging her cargo at the Standard Oil company's docks.

Panama Maru, a Japanese liner, will leave port at midnight for the Orient with a large cargo of freight and passengers.

Titan, Blue Funnel liner, will leave port late today for Seattle, where she will load a general cargo and leave late Wednesday for China and Japan.

MOTHERS' DAY OBSERVED IN THE CITY

"Mothers' Day" was more elaborately observed in Tacoma Sunday than ever before in the history of this city.

Fifty men sat down to a breakfast at the Y. M. C. A. and signed souvenir cards to be sent to their mothers; 76 mothers with babies were present at a special Sunday school class service at the First Christian church; the county jail corridors rang with the music of the Salvation Army band and the mingled sobs of the prisoners whose hearts were touched by the reference to their mothers and similar services were held in the city prison.

All over the city busy hands were penning loving epistles to mothers far away, and ministers in their pulpits delivered eulogies to the mothers of the race.

Mothers Day in Tacoma by the celebration of yesterday may be said to have become a fixture that will be more prominent in its influence as the years come.

MOB BREAKS UP MEETING

LONDON, May 12.—With shouts of "Go home and make bombs," a crowd of men and boys broke up a suffragette meeting today in Hyde park, and attempted to mob the speakers. The women were rescued by the police.

In Park Lane, a fashionable promenade, a suffragette flag was planted and a woman started a speech. She was jostled and pushed about by the crowd until rescued by the police.

POLICE FIND CLUE TO OLD MURDER

SAN FRANCISCO, May 12.—Police are today searching the city for Lee Dor, a Chinaman, who was released on bail after being arrested on a charge of smuggling, and is now wanted in connection with the death of Elsie Sigel, the girl who was murdered in New York's Chinatown on June 13, 1909.

After Dor's disappearance his room was searched and newspaper clippings of the death of Miss Sigel were found along with a number of pictures of white women. He told the police he had no knowledge of English.

13,000 PUPILS TO SING ON FIELD DAY

A choir of 13,000 children, dressed in patriotic colors and singing "America," will be the feature of Tacoma's public school field day, to be held in the stadium May 29. A unique program for the day has been arranged by a committee composed of school principals of the city. Wand drills, flag drills and various unusual callisthenic exercises will be features of the day.

Those OLD CARPETS will make NEW FLUFF RUGS. Call Main 7717. Roscow Rug Factory. "Advertisement."

BRYAN URGES JOHNSON TO VETO BILL

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 12.—Making one last effort to avoid complications with Japan because of the passage of the alien land bill of California Secretary of State Bryan, after conference with President Wilson, telegraphed to Governor Johnson Sunday night urging him to veto the bill and leave the matter to be adjusted by diplomatic endeavors in the future.

The message cites the fact that the Japanese government has filed formal protest against the measure becoming law and urges the governor to grant time for the federal authorities to seek by diplomatic means to surmount the difficulties surrounding the question and remove the evils complained of in California by other means.

SCOUTS WILL DELIVER NOTE FROM SEATTLE

The Tacoma boy scouts are planning a big time for Memorial day when they will act as escort for the veterans in the parade, as well as entertaining 50 Seattle scouts at a picnic dinner and supper.

The Seattle scouts will leave that city at 8 in the morning, running in mile relays, to deliver a message from Mayor Cotterill to Mayor Seymour. They expect to reach Tacoma at about 12:30. Automobiles will accompany the Seattle youngsters, picking them up, one after another, as soon as their mile runs are completed.

COULDN'T DO IT

"What's the matter, hen? You haven't been laying eggs lately. I know it, but you see, someone stole the nest egg, so I have not had any pattern to go by."



NEW MAP OF US SHOWING "WET" AND "DRY" SITUATION; LEAGUE WILL SEEK FEDERAL ADOPTION OF SALOON IN NATION



BURGLAR OPENS DOOR A MISS SLAMS THE DOOR AND 2 BULLETS FOLLOW

Miss Jennie Kettleson, 27, owner of the barber shop at 2015 Pacific avenue, believes she gave a would-be burglar a bullet to remember his call on her Sunday evening.

Miss Kettleson lives in the rear of her shop. She had retired about 11 o'clock, when she heard a noise at the front door. Grasping a big revolver she went in just in time to see a burly bur-

glar push the door open and gain admission.

The fellow saw some one coming and started to get out but she slammed the door and caught him in it. Stepping back she pulled the trigger twice and two shots went toward the intruder. She thinks one hit him in the shoulder.

He wiggled out of the door and got away, however.

"ABSOLUTE LIFE" LEADER IN PRISON

JOLIET, Ill., May 12.—A rude prison barber has snipped off the flowing white locks of Evelyn Arthur See, leader of the "Absolute Life" cult in Chicago, and the "revealer" of his head, closely cropped, has become Convict No. 2388 at the state penitentiary.

VITAL STATISTICS

The funeral of Mrs. Minnie Froh, who died last evening at her home, 2719 South J street, will be held at 2 o'clock tomorrow from the residence. Interment will be in Tacoma cemetery.

Perrett, Mrs. Anna E., age 62, yesterday afternoon at 5202 South Steele street. The remains were removed to the Hoska-Buckley-King company's to await funeral arrangements.

MOVING?

If you are going to move you'll want the Times at your new residence. Fill in the following today and mail to the Tacoma Times, and your paper will be changed on the day you designate.

(Name)

(Present address)

(New address)

(Phone No.)

(Start paper at new address on)

Watch the Times Tomorrow

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Will He Find It? Will He?

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Watch the Times Tomorrow