

### GIRL IN FACE PRISON UNDAUNTED

"It Can't Be Worse," Says Youthful Alta Brooks.

### ANOTHER CHANCE SIGHT

Youngster, Who Took Auto, Prefers Penitentiary to Other Penal Institutions.

Homes and institutions—there isn't a word to be said against them, but they don't quite replace mother, and a few aunts and a friend or so. If anyone doubts, let the question be put to the smiling slip of girlhood who is now in the city jail under charge of the women's protective division.

"Honestly, I don't mind going to the penitentiary in the least," she said quietly yesterday, with a faint whimsical smile. "In fact, I know the prison can't be worse than some of the institutions where they have been keeping me for years and years."

This unfortunate little waif, who looks out upon the broad vista of life with eyes which see only the clouds and shadows, faces a maximum term of ten years in the state penitentiary at Walla Walla, Wash., for the theft of an automobile from William Farrell at Battleground, Wash., early this month.

### Meery for Girl Is Sought.

She is Alta Brooks, aged 15, in whom W. G. McLaren of the Pacific Coast Rescue and Protective society has taken a kindly interest. Mr. McLaren has already put in motion the ponderous wheels of law in an effort to save the little golden-tressed girl the imperishable stain of a penitentiary record.

"But what's the use," she queried earnestly, "if they don't take me to Walla Walla they will place me in some institution. And I am speaking the truth when I say I would rather go to prison than to some of these 'homes' where I have lived almost since I was 2 years old."

Alta Brooks is a victim of fate—nothing more nor less. She cannot remember ever having seen her mother, and her father is not even a memory. She does not even remember when she was first placed in an orphanage, but the records she says, show that she was adopted by a Washington county farmer and his wife when she was 2 years old. She then took the name of her adoptive parents.

### Home Is Lost by Death.

"I got along fine until my foster father was accidentally killed in a railroad accident," she said. "My foster mother sent me to Portland and placed me in one of the homes here. I stayed there for months before I returned home. Then I was sent back to another institution and stayed there for several months. It seems now that I have spent nearly all my life in these institutions."

Alta readily admitted that she had stolen the machine with 18-year-old Eugenia McCool, but said they had intended to return it after taking a ride.

"We went to Kelson and got tired and came back," she said. "They didn't arrest us in the city, but waited until we got over to Portland, where the police picked us up."

"And to think they should sentence me to ten years in the penitentiary for stealing a Ford!" she laughed, as though the waiting prison cell held no terrors for her. "I was just an after-thought," they might as well send me there now because it looks like I'll go there anyway."

### Habeas Corpus Instituted.

Mr. McLaren, who has instituted habeas corpus proceedings to prevent Washington officials from taking the girl to the penitentiary, is firmly of the belief that Alta Brooks can be reclaimed to society, and if he succeeds in his present attempt he will make every effort to direct her upon the right path.

"If they will only give me an opportunity to work," she pleaded, "honest living I would be glad to do it," she ventured. "But I don't want to be placed in the institution, or even in a private home where I will have to stay in the kitchen day and night. Yes, I would be very glad to attend night school and take up some line of work if I only had the chance."

### Confidence Placed in Girl.

Mr. McLaren has every confidence that the girl will make good if she is but given the chance. He has placed her in his care and though she was beset with temptations she did not betray the trust which he placed in her. Likewise, he knows her unfortunate history since babyhood and he wants to see her get another chance.

It was only because of a delayed train that the girl has been given this one chance to escape the Washington state prison. She and the McCool girl were brought to Portland from Vancouver Saturday and were to take a train from here to Walla Walla. They were late in arriving here and missed the north-bound train. It was then that Mr. McLaren put forth his efforts to defeat the Washington law which said that a 15-year-old orphan should spend 10 years in state prison because she helped to appropriate an automobile.

### NEW BILLS AT THE THEATERS

**Orpheum.**  
BY LEONE CASS BAER.  
JACK OSTERMAN, at the Orpheum, is young enough in point of actual youth to belong in Gus Edwards' revue and when the quick-thinking Gus, in the midst of parading his trio of talented young performers, draws in young Osterman also, pulling at the bait and scrapping a half bow, the audience quickly grasped the humor of the situation. Jack's act, "15 minutes of something," had preceded Gus' Edwards' act by one or two others, but the audience had recalled him for several encores and he had dozen bows and when Gus came galloping on later leading young Osterman and introduced him the applause started all over again.

Mr. Edwards has not been here in six years, but he has been diligent in sending in the season on his productions. He is actor, author, composer and manager, and besides all these he sings the songs he writes, sings 'em in a clear well-sustained tenor and his dancing is nimble and of grace abundant. He has too, a great way of chatting with the audience, putting in lines that never were written and getting a lot of fun out of it for himself and his three partners.

The partners are extremely young. There are the two attractive daughters of the house of Purpus, who dance lively steps and break into effective song. There is also Vincent O'Brien, who is billed as the "Kid McCormack," possibly because his voice is a very sweet high embryo tenor. He sings heartily and has a great moment of amusement when, clad as a soldier, he is put through drill exercises by the original Mr. Edwards.

But to return to Jack Osterman. "Being Ambitious for a Stage Career" is the theme of one of the original songs he starts out with and between that one and his final chant about the "smart little fellow who stocked up his cellar and wins all the beautiful dolls" Jack keeps up a running fire of smart small talk and says badinage of a humorous quality. The Armat brothers, who came over with Anna Held and again with the Elkins' road show, are a pair of capital fun-makers and scored decisively on yesterday's bill.

Ernest Evans should echo the line used in Skeet Gallagher's act, "Heavenly praise the man who wrote my part." Skeet uses it because his part provides him with a vocalized, another with a pretty partner. Ernest Evans has four pretty partners. One is a talented singer, a vocalist, another violinist and the fourth a Theda Bara at the piano. Ernest himself dances and sings his ventriloquist act siren to the other. The act is pretentious in artistic value and in scenic development and makes a colorful spot on the bill.

Skeet Gallagher has Irene Martin for his partner in an episode about a sweater that is cleverly done and delightful song. Skeet has some good comedy of his own. Marshal Montgomery invests his treatment, making a pleasant, plausible and highly diverting enactment. The two comely young girls open the bill in a delightful and unique wire act.

### Hippodrome.

UNIQUE as a vaudeville act is Hugo Jansen's "Fashions a la Carte," which opened yesterday at the Lyric theater yesterday. Sparkling comedy, tuneful songs and new and attractive costumes make the production a worth-while entertainment.

The best laugh in the new show at the Lyric is the comedy of the act, an unpretentious expose of the art of mind-reading which has become a popular feature of the vaudeville. Jansen and his partner, who are found in nearly every part.

Ben Dillon and Al Franks are the stars of their usual characters of Mike Dooley and Ike Leschinski, getting into trouble from their first appearance. Carlton Chase carries much of the light comedy of the piece. Clarence Wurdig is a torrid adventurer, broke and in love, in misery till the last scene. Will Rader is General Al. Iris (Olive Finney), Billie Bingham is Betty, 17, but in short skirts. Madeline Mathews is Mrs. Leschinski, shy of largess but long of tongue, and Joan Maidment is a charming French maid.

"Naughty Hindu Eyes," "Fanciful Punicula," and "Himalaya," made up the medley with which the chorus opened yesterday's treat performance. "Ain't Ya Coming Back, Mary Ann, to Maryland," is Billie Bingham's solo. Will Rader sings "Buddha," Carlton Chase sings "Bonnie, My Highland Lassie" and Clarence Wurdig sings "All the Quakers Are Shouters."

A new item is to be seen on the Fourth-street stage this week. Patricia Adams having been added to that of her sister, Ardie Adams, who joined the Lyric forces three weeks ago. Both are graceful dancers, possessed of vocal talent, and are of the Ann Pennington type.

The usual special performances will be given this week. Country store night will find the house packed with grocery staples up in the air. In the chorus girls' contest will be Marie Celestine, Dot Mullally, Lillie Lytell, Della Romig, Ruth Everett, Beverly Busker, Fannie Purlong, June Whitmore, Gloria Gordon, Genevieve Berkley, Ruth Leora, Ardie Adams and Pat Adams.

### "With Love From Dad"

the little Christmas card read. And accompanying it was a pass-book of this institution, showing the entry of an initial deposit.

An appropriate remembrance, this!  
Not only for far-sighted parents to give to their children, but for friends to give to friends.  
To help instill the thrift habit; to steer someone successward; to lay, perhaps, the foundation of a fortune—these are the possibilities of such a gift!

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.  
**HIBERNA SAVINGS BANK**  
SAVINGS - COMMERCIAL - TRUST  
FOURTH AND WASHINGTON STREETS  
OPEN SATURDAY EVENINGS 6 TO 8

### KILLING OF BOY, 7, IS LAID TO SCUFFLE

Cousin of Vernon Franks Tells of Struggle for Pistol.

### BODY TAKEN DOWNSTAIRS

Youth Who Shot Kin Playing War Returns Home After Suffering Nervous Shock.

It was a scuffle for the possession of a .38-caliber automatic pistol which resulted in the fatal shooting of Vernon Franks, 7-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Franks, 2957 Delano street, according to the story told by Edward Keller, 14-year-old cousin of the dead boy, yesterday.

Edward Keller, who disappeared following the shooting with the pistol, and who it was feared might harm himself, returned home last night after he had been the object of search by anxious relatives, friends and the police.

The boys were playing war in the upstairs of the building which is occupied by the Franks and Keller families at the time of the fatal accident. The boys were supposed to have had only an air gun and a small wooden dagger. These, however, were supplanted by the automatic pistol belonging to Joseph Keller, father of Edward.

Edward Keller said he had the pistol and that his little cousin seized it by the barrel and tried to secure it. In the struggle the trigger was evidently accidentally pulled and the weapon discharged, the bullet, which entered under the boy's left arm and went through his body, coming out near the right arm. The heart was penetrated and death was almost instantaneous.

Funeral services will be held today at 2 o'clock, it was announced yesterday. Rev. Mr. Doris will officiate. Vernon Franks attended the Hudson school. His cousin is a student at the Washington high school.

### EUGENE HUNTER IS SAFE

Henry Holmes Follows Little Fall Creek to Settlement.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 21.—(Special).—After having been missing for three days and two nights, Henry Holmes, a young farmer of Wauverville, returned home yesterday none the worse for his experience. Mr. Holmes started on a hunt Wednesday, intending to return that night.

When he failed to return, relatives and friends became alarmed and organized a searching party. Yesterday Mr. Holmes telephoned home from a settlement on Little Fall creek, that he had returned to that stream and followed its course, finding a settlement not far away.

### Douglas School Club Progresses.

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 21.—(Special).—The new Home Baking club, recently made a part of the industrial club work in the schools of Oregon, met with great favor in Douglas county, according to A. E. Street, county clerk.

The club was formed at the South Deer creek school, few miles east of Roseburg.

New arrivals include "Oregon City" shirts in gray and khaki; flannel blouses in khaki, gray and blue; wash blouses; ties; belts; hats and caps; separate knickers; jersey suits for the "little man" and many other useful things for boys.

### "Let's Be More Careful"

Every man, woman and child in Portland can help provide cheer in every home on Christmas Day by helping make December 24 a "No Accident Day."

Should an accident occur on that day it would rob a home of Christmas cheer. You can help prevent it by doing your part to keep Christmas Eve free from accidents.

The total number of accidents that have occurred on Portland's streets this year is appalling. It has aroused the thinking people to action; they have banded together in the resolve to reduce the number of accidents each day; they have taken it home each one to himself, that it is an individual proposition.

It is necessary to be careful every day, but especially so on December 24, "No Accident Day," if you want to keep injury and suffering away on Christmas Day. Join in this resolve:

"Let's Be More Careful."  
Meier & Frank Co.

Former Employees Are Invited to Report for Work at Superintendent's Office, Sixth Floor.

"Delineators" The Christmas "Delineators" for subscribers are now ready in our Pattern Shop.



Enlargements All orders given us up to 5:45 P. M. tomorrow will be finished by 5 P. M. Wednesday.

## Your Xmas Store—Ready

With Thousands of Useful and Acceptable Gifts in

Books, Chinaware and Glassware, Gift Furniture  
Gloves, Handkerchiefs, Hosiery, Jewelry, Leather Goods, Men's Furnishings, Silverware, Toys, Etc.

Do All Your Shopping Here Under One Roof

### A Few of Our Service Features of More Than Usual Interest at This Time

- 3000 efficient, willing salespeople will see to it that you are waited on promptly.
- Fourteen passenger elevators and eight escalators (moving stairways)—the largest number of elevators and only installation of escalators in the city—insure speedy inter-floor transportation.
- Christmas Parcel Station, U. S. Postal Sub-Station and Accommodation Bureau are on the Basement Balcony—packages checked and wrapped free.
- Ask any floor manager for free booklet of Christmas Gift suggestions.
- A Meier & Frank merchandise or glove bond will solve the "what to give" problem. Issued for any amount—\$1 or more—redeemable in merchandise in any department at any time. On sale at special booth on the Main Floor.

- Toytown with its thousands of toys, dolls and games is prepared to make Christmas enjoyable for all the Kiddies.—Fifth Floor.
- Christmas candies—made in our own Daylight Candy Shop from the purest and best ingredients—are here in many kinds.—Ninth Floor.
- Groceries in abundance for the Christmas feast—telephone orders taken from 8 A. M. to 5:45 P. M.—Ninth Floor.
- Please shop early—be here at 9:15 A. M. when our store opens, if possible, or at least try to comb some time in the morning.
- Be sure that the sales-person gets correct name and address.
- You can assist our representatives in their efforts to give the best service by carrying small parcels so far as possible.

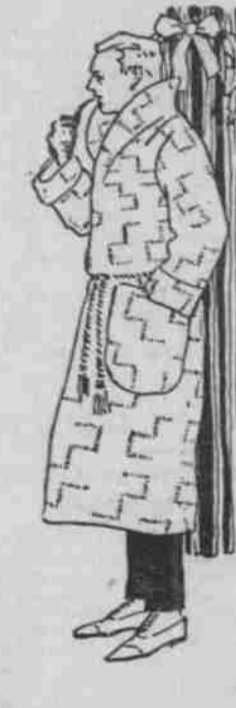
### Butter or Cheese Dishes



\$2.69  
A glass dish with a silver-plated cover and tray in pierced design. Worth \$3.50. Fine for gifts.

### E-X-T-R-A!

Just In by Express—100 Bathrobes  
While Any Remain \$4.85



### Gift Suggestions for Boys

No matter what your boy's age, he is sure to appreciate something to wear for Christmas—a suit, an overcoat, a shirt or a blouse, a hat or a cap, a mackinaw, a bathrobe or the like. We have full stocks of everything for boys at prices that are usually lower than elsewhere.



## Your Christmas Phonograph What Shall It Be?

Every home will be the better for music on Christmas. Every home can HAVE music—the world's best—for cash or on any reasonable terms if selection be made at this store. But do not delay—the demand, already heavy and sure to be intensified during these three days, is rapidly depleting stocks. Make YOUR selection today.

- Brunswick** Featuring Style "7" At \$100
- Columbia** All Styles and Sizes \$20 to \$250
- Edison** All the Models \$95 to \$295
- Victor** Special Model \$70

### Choose Here From the Foremost Instruments on Your Own Terms—in Reason

Special Combination Outfits Can Be Arranged Bringing Any of These Instruments and Records You May Select—on Your Own Terms in Reason.

Choose Here From the Most Complete Assortments of Records of All Makes—Columbia, Edison and Victor, Including the Newest Christmas Numbers.

Meier & Frank's Phonograph Shop, Sixth Floor.