

# MOB PURSUES MAN IN WOMAN'S DRESS

**Walter Waller, Ticket Agent, Has  
Exciting Experience on the  
Streets at Night**

**COMPANION MAKES ESCAPE**

**Masquerader, After Arrest, Tells  
Police He Took Sister's  
Clothes for Joke**

Attired in handsome hobble gowns, stylish black hats and dainty patent leather shoes, two young persons attracted much attention at the Los Angeles-Pacific depot near Fifth and Hill streets last night, and were having considerable fun until they were recognized as being young men in women's clothing. One of the pair boarded a moving car and escaped. The other was pursued several blocks and captured on Broadway near Fourth street. At the police station the masquerader gave his name as Walter Waller and said he is a ticket agent at the Majestic theater.

The masqueraders appeared on the downtown streets some time after 9 o'clock last night and paraded along Broadway. They visited a dance hall, dancing several times with different young men. Finally they again sought the streets.

This time they extended their operations to Hill street until they passed L. B. Delano of 2610 West Eighth street, who recognized Waller, despite his disguise.

#### **BLONDE CURLS ARE SEIZED**

Without hesitating, Delano seized the pretty blonde curls worn by Waller. The masquerader screamed as the black velvet turban and the wig parted and was retained in the firm grasp of Delano. Without waiting to see the fate of his companion, the other masquerader, whom Waller later said was Tom Ferrell, who lives in Alpine street near Grand avenue, ran into the street and leaped aboard a Hollywood car, making his escape.

As soon as Waller found he was recognized, he drew up his hobble skirt as high as the narrow folds would permit and essayed a record-breaking pace down the street. He was closely followed by Delano and the latter's two companions, H. F. Pederson and Joe Swanson of 601 West Seventh street.

Despite the fact that he was incumbered with the narrow, awkward skirt and his movements were considerably hampered by a quantity of lingerie and high-heeled French shoes, Waller made a remarkable showing in his race for freedom.

At Fourth street he was slightly in advance of his pursuers, who gathered recruits along the way until Broadway was reached when the crowd numbered more than a hundred persons.

#### **STUMBLES BEFORE MOB**

Waller kept on running, hopping, leaping, stumbling and skipping along. He made a quick turn at Fourth street and Broadway to elude his pursuers, many of whom continued down Fourth street, but he lost his grip on the tight skirt and staggered and fell.

"Show him no mercy," roared several men. "Tear off his clothes and we will show such persons how to mislead gallant young men."

With that they made a rush for the masquerader, and he would have fared badly had it not been for E. C. Heffner of 928 West Fifty-second street, who broke through the crowd of youths that surrounded Waller and dragged the latter away from them. Then, assisted by Delano, Pederson and Swanson, Heffner escorted the bedraggled one to the central police station. There Waller adjusted the frilled lace collar he wore and smoothed a small black "beauty" patch on his left cheek, allowing the officers to view two gold bracelets on his wrists.

#### **SAYS CLOTHES ARE SISTER'S**

When questioned by the detectives, Waller declared that he took his sister's clothes and donned them to have a little fun with Tom Ferrell, who also secured a full outfit of feminine attire. He declared to the officers that this was the first time he ever attempted to masquerade as a woman.

When it came time to place Waller in jail on a misdemeanor charge the detectives were undecided where to place him. Some argued that persons attired in a full outfit of women's clothes always were placed in charge of the matron, but it finally was decided to lock up the accused in a cell by himself in the men's part of the jail.

Waller is 17 years old and lives at 1005 West Eighth street.