

WOMAN WHO POSED AS A MAN TELLS HER STORY IN HOSPITAL; A MOST REMARKABLE NARRATIVE

Is Frances Frey the victim of environment?

This question is puzzling alienists at the General Hospital, who will keep the woman under close surveillance until it is answered, when she will be placed in a home where, with patient care, she may be reborn to her proper station in life, says the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Frances Frey was arrested Saturday night in Allgeyer's restaurant, 2434 Reading Road, where, in man's attire, she had been employed as a porter, under the name of "Freddy" Frances Frey. Her hair cut in the latest fashion, her rather large hands, with one of the right fingers missing to the joint, and her irregular teeth all helped the deception along.

To further aid in the disguise, however, the girl had provided herself with a sort of straight jacket of very coarse cloth, which concealed the contours of her chest, and emphasized other portions of the body with artificial substitutes to carry out her role of a man. The small head, rather large and lumpy eyes, fringed with heavy lashes, and the well-shaped, gray lips might have led the keen observer she opened those lips to give consent to coarse, and sometimes blasphemous language, which she did in the course of a conversation yesterday with Dr. Walter E. List, assistant superintendent of the hospital.

His experience as assistant to Dr. Frank W. Harmon, of Longview asylum, peculiarly fitted him for the effort to solve the strange psychological duality of the woman.

"I've simply been raised this way," she said in answer to the question as to why she preferred men's clothing to the habiliments of her sex. "I was born in Columbus, at 521 Twentieth

Street, 24 years ago. As far back as I can remember I always wore boy's clothes.

"No, I did not prefer the society of boys to that of girls, and when I grew up I never was attracted by men. I never kissed a man in my life. I have been in love with girls, but my advances toward them never went beyond the kissing stage. I've taken girls to places of amusement, bought them candy and spooned with them like other men, yet I soon tired of their company and mostly kept to myself. Men and their coarseness quite often repelled me, but somehow I sometimes got in the habit of using bad language.

"In spite of the fact that to carry out my part of being a man I was obliged to share a room with them, I always was able to conceal my sex. When their 'horseplay' at times got too rough I would either get out of the room on some pretext or pretend that I was offended.

"When I was 15 years old and living in Columbus I was scalded and severely burned while working in a restaurant. I was taken to St. Anthony's Hospital, where my sex was discovered. The good sisters, however, did not betray my secret, and when I left I put on the boy's clothes I had on when I was admitted.

"My father, who was a saloon keeper in Columbus, died two years ago in March and my mother followed him in July. I was the only child and I guess they wanted a boy when I was born and so dressed me up in boy's clothes.

"Say, why can't I wear men's outfits if I want to?" she asked at the close of the interview. "I never committed a crime in my life, and I'm better than lots of women."

An investigation of her mental condition will be made and she will not be discharged from the hospital until its status is convincingly established.

The discovery that "Freddy" Frey is a woman was a surprise to Mrs. John Allgeyer, who said that "Freddy" was employed to carry coal, saw wood and chop kindling, and that she was also an excellent cook.

"Men about the place frequently twitted 'Freddy' about an alleged old courtship with a girl known as Irene," said a patron of the restaurant yesterday.

"Freddy" has been employed at the Allgeyer place when it was conducted as a saloon for more than three years. She also was employed at one time as cook in a grocery and baking company and as porter by a firm selling liquor.

Two weeks ago men who boarded at the Allgeyer house said they had discovered that "Freddy" was a woman. Mrs. Allgeyer questioned her about it, but "Freddy" insisted that she was a man, and no more attention was paid to the matter. It was fear of discovery, it is stated, that caused her to bite Williams Saturday night during a fight.

Last Monday afternoon she visited a burlesque show with John Allgeyer and on her return commented on the women in the chorus.

The woman was quite a genius in making devices to conceal her sex and a number were found among her effects yesterday.
