

BETRAYED BY HIS BEARD.

Man Who Passed for Princess of a Pacific Tribe.

(San Francisco Examiner)

The strange and romantic career of "Sackett, the woman priestess of the Quatsino," has been brought to a sensational close by Superintendent Hussey of the provincial police, and Sackett now awaits the sailing of the first coasting steamer in order to return to the tribe. For years this person has been held as little short of a tribal deity along the west coast, has rendered great assistance to missionaries and has held the unique distinction of being the "only woman ever admitted to the councils of the tribe.

It now turns out that Sackett is not a woman, although passing as one among both whites and Indians for a quarter of a century. Sackett was among the witnesses brought down Quatsino sound to give evidence against a party of whisky pirates convicted here yesterday. Dressed in a blue figured print dress, with a bright-colored shawl over his shoulders and his long hair dangling down his back in two neatly braided black "pig tails," Sackett was, from tousled head to pigeon-toed brown feet, an ordinary-looking Indian woman of apparently 30 years of age. The bogus woman was during the necessary detention prior to the trial given a room in the provincial police station, and it was there that the detection of her sex came, because "she" had no opportunity to shave, and in the course of two days a stubby beard made its appearance.

Sackett, when accused of masquerading in false attire, at first protested indignantly in a shrill soprano voice, and then burst into truly feminine tears. Afterward he explained that though a man he had always lived as a woman, and been accepted as such, assuming his role of religious guide and mentor partly because the "Saghalie Tyhee" (God) had commanded and because it facilitated the masquerade by permitting him to separate himself from the tribe, as he otherwise could not have done. He is a good-looking Siwash, an orphan of the Quatsino tribe, and tells the following remarkable story in explanation of his lifelong masquerade.

"Many years ago," he relates, "when I was a very little boy, I fell into sleep by the side of the great water, and to me as I slept, there came a mighty voice which instantly awoke me. It was not of the wind nor of the sea nor of the thunder. I looked and was afraid for before me appeared the Saghalie Tyhee. 'Sackett,' said the mighty voice, 'from this night thou art a woman and my priestess, to do my service and mine alone. Never shall thou appear but in woman's dress and with thy hair uncut, after the fashion of woman.' Then I promised the Saghalie Tyhee that I would obey, and hid my face in the sand. Again I slept, and when I awoke once more I was alone. From that day I have been a woman and the 'good worker' of the Quatsino."

Sackett seems to thoroughly believe that the Saghalie Tyhee did appear to him and that his wish had been carried out. On this point all arguments were useless, and an examination as to his sanity will in consequence be made tomorrow. In the meantime the police have overruled the great spirit's command and cut the "priestess'" hair, besides insisting on his donning man's attire. He has submitted to the change, but says he will surely die of shame if compelled to go out among men in such garments.