IN MAN'S ATTIRE TENANTS AN ARK

"Babe" Bean of Stockton Proves to Be a Woman.

Has For Weeks Inhabited a Small Craft on McLeods Lake.

Substituted Male Garb for Skirts in Order to Obtain Work Readily.

STOCKTON, CAL., Aug. 23.—One of the strangest cases that have come under the eyes of the local police is that of a pretty, dark-haired, dark-eyed girl who is masquerading as a boy, and whose life history would give the novelist a plot for one of the most readable books of the age. "Babe" Bean is the name she has gone by, but what her real name is she alone knows, and she is not likely to divulge it, as she claims to come from one of the best families in the land.

Born in the South, "Babe" Bean has the dark hair and full mouth that tell of love of music, adventure and pleasure. She is passionately fond of music and was on her way to church in her boy's attire just to hear the music when Detectives Carroll and Klench told her that they would like to have some explanation of her strange freak, and took Miss Bean with them to see Chief of Police Gall. The girl in men's clothes came off best in her encounter with the officers, as she was posted on the law governing such cases.

To the officers Miss Bean said that she reached this city on July 17, and that she had lived ever since in an ark on the banks of McLeods Lake. She disclaimed any intention of violating any law, and said that she preferred to travel in male attire, as her chances for procuring work were made better.

All this she said on paper, for the girl-boy cannot talk. The police thought that Miss Bean was shamming when she drew out her little notebook and answered with her pencil the questions put to her. They found out, however, that she has not spoken to a soul since she has been in Stockton, and that she always makes her wants known by means of her pencil. This she uses with a rapidity that would be the envy of any shorthand reporter. What she says on paper, too, is always written in the best of English, and it is evident that Miss Bean has generally traveled in the better walks of life.