A STRANGE CAREER.

The Remarkable Dual Existence of a Former Belle of Sandusky, O.

[San Francisco Dispatch.]

The application of Peter Elsebarne, of San Jose, for letters of administration on the estate of Charlotte Parkhurst, in Santa Cruz County, has made public a remarkable story of a woman's dual life. Early in in the spring of 1848 the people of Sandusky, O., were startled by the discovery that Miss Charlotte Parkhurst, only daughter of Frank Parkhurst, a prominent citizen, had eloped with the town postmaster during the night. The distracted father searched for his Lottie for months without success, and finally concluded that she had come to an untimely death. A few years after this the California gold fever was at its height. Railroads were unknown. Stages were the only means at hand for transporting miners to different points in demand. The perilous exploits with mustang teams were told in the cabin and by the camp-fire. None of these bold pioneer stage-drivers were oftener mentioned than was young Charley Parkhurst. To know One-Eyed Charley, as he was called from the fact of having lost an eye in a fight with highwaymen, was to respect and admire him for quiet, courageous character.

Tiring of stage-driving, Parkhurst sought more congenial pursuits and was made time station agent for the stage company, when coaches plied between this city and Watsonville. At one time he was put in possession of and held a disputed tract of land now valued at twenty thousand dollars, when the struggle over the property was so bitter that only a brave, determined man was believed equal to the task of holding it.

After an eventful career in California Parkhurst was found dead in bed at Watsonville on December 29, 1879. Then the startling fact was revealed that Charley Parkhurst was a woman. Subsequent investigations established beyond doubt the identity of the famous jehu with Charlotte Parkhurst, the eloping belle of Sandusky. A singular circumstance is that until now, after a lapse of six years, no effort has been made either by public officers or friends of the woman to settle up the estate. She left no deed and the exact value or description of her property seems yet to be shrouded in mystery.