

FLASHBACK ~ 100 YEARS AGO OCTOBER 1921

Van Ness Act the Big Issue

Somerset Democrat, October 7, 1921, page 1

Both the Democratic party and the Republican party held their annual conventions here this week at which platforms were adopted. As had been anticipated, the Democrats favored the repeal of the Van Ness Prohibition Enforcement Act. However, there was some talk as to drawing up another enforcement act with various modifications, included in which will be the right of a trial by jury. The [Democratic] convention also talked of petitioning Congress to modify the present Volstead [Prohibition] Act.

Nutrition Project

Somerset Democrat, October 21, 1921, page 5

Like the little girl in the song, a county project leader when good is very, very good, but when she's bad is horrid. She is usually good however, as witnessed by the record of individual work made by Miss Sadie Hecht, **nutrition project leader** appointed by the home demonstration agent of Bergen county. If it could be duplicated by many women in Somerset county, there would soon be little need for doctors or hospitals.

This record is entirely aside from her county-wide work: she loaned out "The Prospective Mother" to four women, "The Mother and Her Child" to one woman whose husband became interested and lent it in turn to two men in his New York office, who finally bought copies. Then she gave away two pamphlets on infant care, told six people how to regulate their diets with more fruit and vegetables, and also how to make bran muffins. She prepared and sterilized dressings for a prospective mother, gave three canning demonstrations, loaned her copy of "Successful Canning," gave away three copies of canning instructions, gave poultry culling and poultry feeding demonstrations at her home, two apple cake demonstrations, and much canning information over the telephone.

Police Judge Fines Woman Impersonator of Men

Somerset Democrat, October 28, 1921, page 6

Police officers and detectives can spot peculiar characteristics of the male clan of crime. But it takes a policewoman to detect suspicious characters by their dress. Recently Bella de Turk walked down town. She got as far as the post office [where] stood Mrs. Dollie Fisher and Miss Emily Greer, policewomen, [who] discerned at once that the figure of the gentleman walking by would have been set off to much greater advantage had he worn feminine dress. So they accosted him and found it was her. And Miss De Turk, fitted out in a man's cap, coat and trousers...took a ride to the police station with Mrs. Fisher and Miss Greer. There she refused to solve the riddle of her masculine attire and was released on bond.

"I am an impersonator of men characters," she told the court. It then followed that she had neglected to change back into feminine dress after the show. Judge Berry fined her \$25 and costs for the oversight and bade her remember that Shakespeare to the contrary notwithstanding, all the world's not a stage.

Vaudeville Act Keeps Audiences "Guessing"

Courier-News, October 26, 1921, page 6

The Plainfield Theatre has on its program, for this afternoon and tonight, a big surprise vaudeville number. It occurs in the piano and singing act, offered by Lee Mason and Company, and leaves the audience wondering whether Mr. Mason is assisted by a clever female impersonator, or a young woman with a masculine voice. The offering is one of the most unique of the kind that has ever been seen in this city...Another good number is by Tom McRae and Company, two male comedians full of rapid-fire jokes who wind up...with a "sure fire" song. Another splendid act is "Kisses," a lively musical revue...The show is completed by...a skit entitled "Kidding Hubby," the latest Selznick news and a Bruce Scenic.

The new show commencing tomorrow will offer Charlie Chaplin in his latest comedy, "The Idle Class," and another screen feature, Justine Johnstone, in the Realart release, "The Plaything of Broadway." These will be supplemented by a classy vaudeville bill.

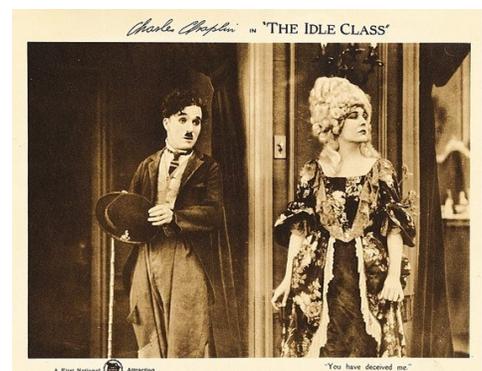


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