

# She Will Fight for Right to Wear Trousers, and Ask President Roosevelt to Help Her

Augusta Seib, Who Passed as a Man for Nine Years, Says Every Honest Girl Struggling for a Living has Same Reason to Disguise Her Sex.

BLACKWELL'S ISLAND  
A JOKE, SHE THINKS.

Willing to Spend Thirty Days There Each Year if She Can Get Back into Men's Clothes by So Doing—Wears a Skirt Now, but You'd Hardly Notice It.

"Ach! I hate to be—fimean, wear—a skirt. I'm going to ask the President if I can't go back to trousers. When I tell him how hard it is for a woman to get a square deal I guess he won't object."

So said Mrs. Augusta Seib back of her narrow lunch counter at No. 46 Sixth avenue, after a short sojourn as the guest of the city on Blackwell's Island.

Mrs. Seib was committed for wearing masculine attire. For nine years she had passed as a man. She declares she has found citizenship so much more desirable for men that she will appeal to the President for the right to resume manly garb.

"Anyway, I wore trousers nine years so five days in the Workhouse was a small price to pay," she continued. "Blackwell's Island? Say, that place is a joke as a prison. It's a regular summer resort. It was worth \$5 just to go and see it, but as a punishment—I have to laugh. I'd gladly spend thirty days there every year if I could get back into men's clothes." Mrs. Seib shot a glance of scorn at the almost unnoticeable skirt which bound her once untrammelled legs.

A person stepping into the inconspicuous "Gotham Lunch," just above Thirty-sixth street, where Mrs. Seib does business, would never suppose the proprietor standing behind the counter to be a woman. The letter of the law she obeys. She does not wear trousers, but that detail is not noticeable from in front of the lunch counter. Patrons coming in a steady stream for a ham and egg sandwich and a shaving mug full of coffee sing out "Hello, Gus!" and Mrs. Seib responds "Hello, fellows!" in a sort of boyish contralto, not too distinctly feminine not to pass.

She dresses in the white coat of a waiter, a man's shirt and collar and a waiter's apron which quite conceals a very narrow, short skirt. A man's shoes encase her feet; her hair is cut very short and shaved around the ears and neck, as a man's is. The setting of shoulders and hips and the set of the head are so distinctively masculine as almost to convince one she is a man, even after one knows the truth.

Only two things about Mrs. Seib are unmistakably feminine. They are her ears. Their setting tells the tale at once, and they are pierced for earrings. The holes are drawn down by having had earrings in them and have a stretched look. Her hands and her face, though delicate and showing refinement, would pass, and have successfully for these nine years, as a man's. Not once was she suspected.

"No, I never voted, and I always backed down when it came to going to swimming at Coney, but I know a good cigar, and I can tell good whiskey. I had lots of sweethearts, but Mrs. Clark here, was supposed to be my steady, so that let me out."

Mrs. Clark is associated with Mrs. Seib in the lunch room business. She represents the brains of the establishment and Mrs. Seib the brawn. Mrs. Seib is willing to talk of her adventures only as she sees a dollar in it. Mrs. Clark is aware of the advertising possibilities of Mrs. Seib's recent notoriety and sees a future for the lunch room springing from it. This Mrs. Seib cannot grasp.

"I like a dollar in my hand first," she says.

### Will Fight for Her Trousers.

Mrs. Seib's case has greatly interested many people by settling several long-disputed questions. It proves that a woman can completely change her characteristics for those of a man and maintain the disguise for an indefinite period. It is safe to say Mrs. Seib would never have been discovered if it had not been for the accident of her prostration by heat and her consequent trip to a hospital.

Sarah Bernhardt, Maude Adams and Charlotte Cushman are Mrs. Seib's unsuccessful rivals as portrayers of men. Boys these famous actresses have accomplished, but a man never.

Mrs. Seib's case also disproves the theory that man's dress is a harsh setting for woman's beauty. As a woman, Mrs. Seib's face would be old and somewhat sunken for her age, which is thirty-six. As a man's, it is fresh and smooth, and she looks not more than twenty-five in spite of her efforts to roughen it by shaving.

"Any way, I'm not going to give up trousers without a fight for them," stubbornly declared Mrs. Seib today. "If one of them went away somewhere else I could be a man for twenty years and no one would know. But I have no business here, and so I will make a petition to the President. Every honest girl who has to struggle for a living has the same reason to wish to disguise her sex I have had. The President can fix so many things, perhaps he can fix this matter for me."



AUGUSTA SEIB.

**DALLAS READY FOR ELKS**  
DALLAS, Tex., July 11.—With a myriad of miscellaneous sports in place and entertainment planned in days and well-colored hunting, Dallas is in readiness to receive her guests, the army of the Elks of America who will meet in annual session on Monday. It is estimated that fully 30,000 visitors will have arrived before nightfall on Monday.

# THE BEST

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A 4-Page Section

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