

Police Ponder Whether It's 'He' or 'She'

Lt. James F. Kepner in most instances can cope with any police case which may be presented to him, but last evening he was placed in a quandary when radio patrol car officers called him from the Altoona Hospital about a "woman" who had been beaten by two unidentified persons.

Earlier the lieutenant received a report from the Rescue Mission that there was a woman at the mission office who had been beaten and who asked for medical attention. Police responded and took the "woman" to the hospital.

Imagine the surprise of Radio Car Patrolmen Amerigo Caporuscio and Frank Hoover when the doctor informed them the "woman" was a "he."

The officers contacted City Hall and were told that as soon as medical attention had been completed they were to bring in the "woman."

The "woman," attired in a blue blouse, plaid skirt, gray cloth coat, a blue bandana about her "long blonde tresses" and wearing men's shoes and socks, related a long and rambling story to Lt. Kepner

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POLICE PONDER 'HE' OR 'SHE'

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She stated that her name was Claire Penny Law, 34, of 2160 Patterson St., Cleveland, Ohio and that she had been in Altoona for about three weeks.

On Saturday evening she had been "picked up" by two "collegiate looking young fellows" with the promise of taking "her" to a local dub.

Instead they took her to the outskirts of the city and beat her up, then threw her out of the car.

She said she wandered around all day Sunday and finally came to the Rescue Mission where she asked for medical aid.

At the hospital she (or is it he?) received four sutures for a laceration of the upper lip and treatment for contusions and small lacerations of the arms and legs.

Lt. Edwin V. Mohler of the city detective division reported late this morning that when detectives went to the cell block to bring the man (it's a he now) to the interrogation room they found him in the need of medical attention.

Removed to the Altoona Hospital by Weyandt ambulance, "Claire" was taken to the X-ray room for examination of the skull, believed to have been fractured-during the beating Saturday night. The victim's condition was reported late this morning by city police as serious.