



**SIXTY DAYS** "Stole a package of clothing belonging to Isaac Richards at the Golden Eagle Hotel yesterday, pleaded guilty of petit larceny in the Police Court this morning and Judge Raish sentenced him to serve sixty days in the County Jail. Part of the goods were recovered and returned."



**STRANGER UNDER ARREST** "Accused of entering Mock's livery stable last night and breaking into a locker, from which he took an overcoat. . . . He put the overcoat on and wore it until the owner discovered him and took it away. . . . Was sentenced by Judge McDaniel to serve one year in Folsom."



**COCK AND BULL STORY** The fourteen-year-old "cigarette fiend" shot and robbed a man who, he claimed, had "attempted to commit a crime against nature upon him." The jury believed him, but he still got sixteen years (he was paroled in four and a half); his story was later proved false.



**STOLE BICYCLES** "Folsom Prison Record—Date: November 10, 1902. Crime: Grand Larceny. Term: 2 Years. Nativity: New York. Age: 40. Occupation: Carpenter. Height: 5' 7". Complexion: Fair/Ruddy. Eyes: Blue. Hair: Light Brown. Discharge Date: June 20, 1904."

## ROGUES' GALLERY

### FINAL FURLOUGH

**A**RNE SVENSON encountered his first prisoner three years ago, in an antique shop in San Rafael, California. The man, identified only as "John Fleming, Petit Larceny," stared at him spectrally from a glass-plate negative propped up in a dark cabinet. Svenson, a photographer, stared back, then asked what the story was. "The dealer's aged aunt had seen these plates in a building that was being torn down," Svenson recounts. "Little boys were throwing stones

at the glass faces. The dealer had fifteen hundred negatives in a truck in a field in Petaluma. My sister and I went up there—it was about thirty degrees in the fog—and we sat in the back of this truck and looked at the negatives until our hands were bleeding from the edges of the glass."

Svenson bought up the plates, and upon developing his first print—at home, in New York—he realized he had crossed his Rubicon: he couldn't let these silent prisoners' provenance remain a mystery. Inquiries took him to the gold-rush town of Marysville—the aunt's home—and there he learned that the photographer was one Clara S. Smith, an admired local portraitist, whose city contract to record new arrests lasted from 1900 through 1908, and

whose studio, in the Odd Fellows Hall, was a short shuffle from the police house.

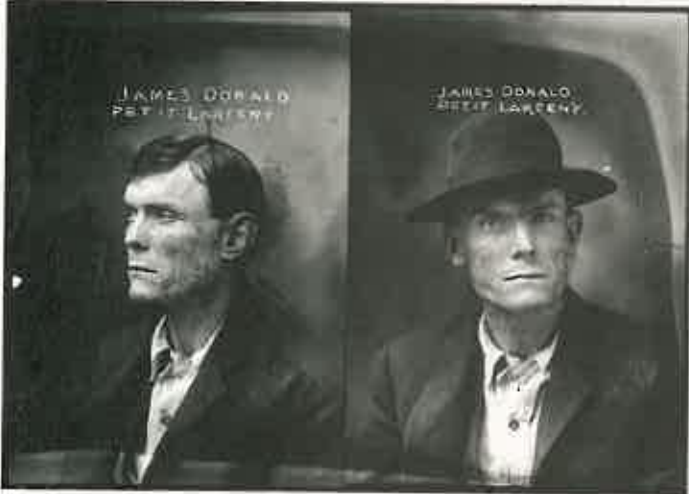
Sequestered for uncounted hours with bound volumes of the *Marysville Daily Democrat* and *Daily Appeal* in the Yuba County Library, Svenson unearthed the stories (including the ones quoted here) of these sad-looking, mostly itinerant men. Blast Books is bringing out a selection of them in the fall. Svenson prefers not to speculate on "my guys," as he calls them. "I'm creating lives for them defined by their crimes," he says. "That's all I can do—that's all I have. If their crimes become their definitions, so be it." In his view, giving these ragged men back their histories is a way of setting them free. —ANDREW LONG



**STOOD OFF OFFICERS** *Brown had been drinking, and he resisted arrest. "The negro refused to surrender unless shown a star or other warrant of arrest. . . . While backing across D street he ran into Officer Single, who tapped him on the shoulder with his club and brought him to time."*



**STEALING A COAT** *"Convicted of petit larceny in the Police Court yesterday morning and waiving time was ordered to be confined in the county jail for 5 months. There were three charges against him, but he was tried for stealing a coat from Powell bros."*



**POSITIVE PROOF LACKING** *"Will be charged if evidence can be found to prove that the pile of second-hand grain sacks in his possession was unlawfully obtained. . . . This morning James Donald pleaded guilty, admitting that he stole twenty-four grain sacks from the Buckeye Mills."*



**CHINAMAN UNDER ARREST** *"Stole the Purse of a Dissolute Woman. Lee Wong, accused by Violet Powell, a woman of the half-world, with stealing her purse, containing \$4.50 and a beer check. . . . Was found guilty of the charge and was sentenced to serve one year in Folsom prison."*



**ABOUT MIDNIGHT** *In the U.S. Hotel, Brunson shot himself and his amour, Ada Clark. They both lived. Brunson pleaded guilty and got two years in San Quentin. Upon release, he moved to Oroville, took up with a divorcée, Jessie Riley, and later shot her to death and committed suicide.*



**UNDER THE AGE** *"Accused of Having Assaulted Lulu Delponti Last June. Much Testimony as to the Exact Day of Her Birth—No Bible Record in Evidence." She denied saying that she was "going on 17 years." The defendant "was willing to marry the girl. . . . Not guilty."*