

"Acting" Mother, 9, Runs Away to Play

Little Girl Grows Tired of Keeping House for Four Brothers and Sisters.

Eva Kennedy, 9, 1203 1-2 South Fourth street, missing from her home since last Thursday, was found yesterday in Council Bluffs at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Peterson, 2801 Avenue A, with whom she had been visiting. The little girl, acting mother to four brothers and sisters, did not want to return home and said she wanted "to stay and play with Gretchen."

Each day the little girl watches the other children of the neighborhood going out to play from the porch of her home; but her housework will not permit her to join them. For months she has dreamed of the time when she could leave the work to someone else and join the other children of her age in their games.

At last an opportunity to be free, at least for a time, presented itself. A man who lived in the same house with the Kennedy family wanted to travel, so he would ask Eva to do her errands and then would pay her. She saved all the money that she earned in this way until at last she had \$1.07.

Last Thursday she put on her best dress, took a street car to Council Bluffs and went to the Peterson home. "My mother has sent me to play with Gretchen," she told Mrs. Peterson upon reaching the house. "Teacher is sick and there will be no school, so mother said that I could come over here and play."

The Petersons formerly employed Mrs. Kennedy and knew the child well, so they welcomed her. What money remained after Eva had paid her carfare was used by Gretchen and herself to purchase sweets. For three days the child had the "time of her life," eating sweets and playing all day long.

Forgets That Parents Worry. But Eva had forgotten that her parents might worry about her non-appearance. She did not stop to think that they would miss the police that she was gone. But that is what they did. The police here could find no trace of the child but they notified the Council Bluffs department to be on the lookout for the little girl.

The Omaha newspapers carried a short item Sunday morning saying that the girl, missing from her home, was acting as a mother. Eva about it. "I didn't run away," Eva said. "I'm going back. I just wanted to play a little and come away. But I don't want to go home yet."

Mrs. Kennedy was notified and Eva returned to her home. She mourned the fact that her dollar had been spent and that now she would have nothing to save for the next time she can play. But the Petersons gave her money to replace what she had spent and the man for whom Eva had run errands gave her \$1, so next time she has "money" to buy her next set of clothes.

Driving Stock Overland on Increase in Nebraska. Lincoln, March 12.—(Special.)—Higher transportation rates on livestock are apparently resulting in a return to pioneer days when cattlemen drove their cattle overland, according to figures made public today by Joseph Mayer, acting secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

More livestock was driven overland to the South Omaha market in February than in the preceding February. Mr. Mayer reports, and 1922 showed a big increase. The figures follow:

Table with 3 columns: Month, Cattle, Horses and Mules. Rows include February 1923, February 1922, March 1923, March 1922.

Table with 2 columns: Month, Cattle, Horses and Mules. Rows include February 1923, February 1922, March 1923, March 1922.

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