

# Tiger Child To Be Given Life Term For Matricide

## California Law Will Not Allow Dorothy Ellingson to Hang and She Must Remain in Reformatory Until of Age to Begin Serving Life in San Quentin

By L. C. OWEN  
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San Francisco, Jan. 19.—First a period of four or five years in the Girl's Reformatory at Ventura, Cal., an interval which must elapse before she becomes of legal age; then a life term in San Quentin prison. Possibly at the end of nine years, the average time for pardons for life terms in California, she will go free.

This is the punishment which in all probability will fall to 16 years old Dorothy Ellingson, San Francisco's "tiger child" and a strange paradox of good and bad impulses who shot her mother to death because the latter was "too old fashioned" and sought to end the self-willed debauchery of the titian haired wisp of a girl at the hands of "night life" sheiks.

"God knows, I don't know," she says in answer to a question as to why she did it. "I loved her better than anybody in the world, but she would not let me do as I pleased. She told me that if I went out on another 'party' she would bolt the door against me and send the police after me. So I shot her, but I don't know why."

Deserted and condemned both by the public, which is still gasping over the awfulness of her crime, and by her relatives—her own father and brother have declared they will not turn a hand to save her—there is probably no more friendless and forlorn figure in all the world than the 16 year old "tiger child."

Alternately she weeps hysterically and then squares her chin. At times she even smiles in a pathetic attempt at carrying out her self imposed belief that she is "hard boiled." And she is hard boiled if certain facts in the case are to be considered. After shooting her mother to death and hiding herself in a tawdry rooming house, Dorothy that same night attended just such a "party" as her dead mother so often objected to, and it was while trying to dance up a youthful sheik friend for another night's whiff in the world of jazz mania on the second night she was hunted as a fugitive, that the police stumbled upon her trail.

Her bobbed titian hair, her facial coloring and her tawny suit, with black trimming make her appear indeed the "tiger child." The cold blooded elements of the murder she so freely confesses help to carry out the spectacular pseudonym. On the other hand, an elfin face bearing no evidences of months as a sinned moth of the bright lights and eyes that by turns express terrified wonder and pleading for a word of sympathy, convey the idea that she is not a "tiger child" by inclination; that in a different environment or with different parental handling she would not be a matricide today. It is borne out in a measure in the girl's efforts to tell of her home life of why she became an addict of dance halls, questionable cafes and all night parties.

"When I had to stay at home all I could do was to sit and read. My father, my brother and even mother would not talk to me. If I asked them questions, if I tried to get them to talk to me, it was always 'Oh don't bother me.'"

Supporting the theory of parental misunderstanding also is a degree of intelligence which borders on precociousness. Whatever else she is, she is not a mental moron; although admittedly she is a mor-

### Sues Goodman



Alma Rubens, movie actress, is seeking a divorce again. She charges her husband, Dr. Daniel Carson Goodman, physician, author, director and film magnate, with cruelty. In 1918 she was divorced from William Smith, professionally known as Franklyn Farnum, on the same ground.

al one. Studying stenography and typewriting for only six months a year ago in a statewide typing contest, she won second honor. Her "little red diary," which bears sordid entries regarding liquor drinking and jazz mania parties, also has been described in bits of poems and philosophies which are "done" enough to be within the ken of persons many years her senior.

One entry reads: "If of love we complain what shall he say, or consuming thru desire, how can we escape? How good it is to pardon one who is able to resist and how much more so one who is helpless."

Normally, physicians say the tiger child is a case for surgeons. Whether, as the diary reads, she was "one who is helpless" or whether the atrocious matricide she committed was coldly premeditated, 16 year old Dorothy Ellingson will not hang. California law prohibits the hanging of anybody under 18 years. Similarly by legal restrictions she cannot be sent to a regular penitentiary until she is of legal age. She confesses her crime and the only punishment can be life imprisonment.

### MRS. JOHNSON MAKES INTERESTING PROGRAM

Continued from page 1  
Runcombe, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Cleveland, Craven, Cumberland, Davidson, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Franklin, Gaston, Granville, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Henderson, Iredell, Johnston, Lenoir, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Nash, New Hanover, Onslow, Pasquotank, Pitt, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rowan, Sampson, Stanly, Surry, Union, Vance, Wake, Wayne, Wilkes, Wilson.

Counties having part-time officers are: Anson, Avery, Beaufort, Carteret, Chatham, Jackson, Lee, McDowell, Orange and Rutherford. Eighty-one per cent of the wealth of the State is listed in the 25 counties organized for public welfare, the report continues, and the cost of the work on the basis of \$1,000 worth of taxable property ranges from 14 in Brunswick to 0.19 in Lee, with a State average of .067.

Seventy-four per cent of the State's population is found in the 25 counties organized for public welfare. Cost of the work on a per capita basis ranges from .14 in McDowell to .015 in Lee with a State average of .069.

Of the 25 superintendents of public welfare in North Carolina, 14 have been in the county work since organization in 1919. Thirtysix of the superintendents have attended college, 27 have college degrees; 32 have been teachers, three are ministers, 43 are church members, 29 report special community service prior to public welfare work, 38 are married. The average age is 37 plus years.

During the past year the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare has made an effort to get monthly reports from the county jails and chain-gangs in the State. Two hundred and twenty-three reports from 39 counties have been received on county prison camps out of a possible total of 529, as such camps exist in 52 counties. Three thousand, two hundred and twenty prisoners were committed to these camps within the month for which reports were made. The board's biennial report states:

Assuming that these were representative months, then for the period over which the reports extend, 4,442 prisoners were committed in 39 counties in ten months. If the average for these counties is the average for the State, there were 7,500 men committed to chain-gangs within the first ten months of 1924. The same proportion would give a total of 9,000 for the year.

In the summer of 1923 Governor Morrison requested the county authorities to abolish the lash. Of the 39 counties reporting on chain-gangs, seven reported flogging used as a punishment. It is known to the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare that several other counties which did not report on this item, practice flogging.

In regard to jails, 516 reports out of a possible total of 720 for the 72 counties reporting were received. On an average of a half month per county and a half months per county, 72 per cent of the counties in the State reported 6,987 persons confined in county jails. The biennial report states that an attempt was made to find out something about these prisoners, but that there has not yet been opportunity to compile this information. Although even the approximate age of many prisoners was not reported, enough ages were reported to be significant. Of those whose ages were given, 138 were children under 16 years old, 49 white boys, 15 white girls, 60 negro boys and 11 negro girls. One thousand seven hundred and sixty were boys and girls between the ages of 16 and 20, 782 white boys, 612 negro boys, 185 white girls and 185 negro girls. Two thousand, two hundred and sixty-eight were young men and women between 21 and 25—1,063 white men, 845 negro men, 148 white women and 214 negro women. Five hundred and four were over 26 years old.

15 counties have built new jails or now have jails under construction.—Cherokee, Cleveland, Cumberland, Duplin, Edgecombe, Franklin, Johnston, McDowell, Cab, New Hanover, Fender, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes and Wilson.

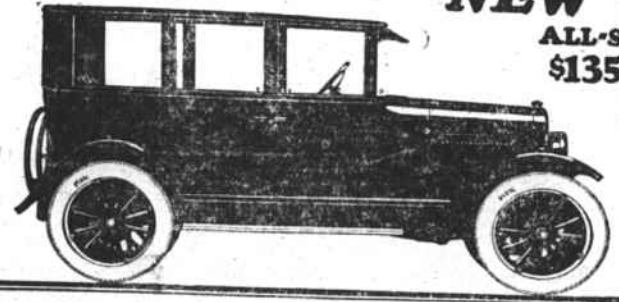
The State Board of Charities and Public Welfare recommends district jails to take the burden from small counties.

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