

**MUGARRIETA, ELVIRA VIRGINIA (BABE BEAN, JACK BEE GARLAND)
(1869–1936)**

“I have been wearing men’s clothing off and on for five years,”
“for as a man, I can travel freely, feel protected and find work.”.

Known as Babe Bean, Elvira Virginia Mugarrieta became an itinerant journalist and self-appointed social worker who dressed and later passed as a man in northern California. In her late teens, Mugarrieta lived as a vagabond hiking the Santa Cruz Mountains and called herself Jack Garland. Taking the name Babe Bean, by the 1890s Mugarrieta had become a reporter for the *Stockton Evening Mail*. She wrote on local mining conditions, the state hospital for the insane, hobo camps, gambling houses, and on political figures. In 1899 she stowed away as a cabin boy on a transport ship bound for the Philippines. A second such journey enabled her to live among the troops, accompany the Twenty-ninth infantry into battle, and work at a military hospital. Returning to San Francisco, Mugarrieta took the name Jack Bee Garland and lived the rest of his life in the Bay area. He earned a reputation for his humanitarian efforts. Upon his death in 1936, his identity as a woman was revealed. Mugarrieta was buried in the family plot in Colma, California, as a female wearing a white satin dress in sharp contrast to the usual attire.