

PASSING AUTO TAKES A CHILD

Picked up by an automobilist who was passing through Brunswick on his way to Bath and dropped at Oak and High streets was the story unfolded Wednesday by little Marie Alexander, aged eight, daughter of Mrs. Albert Alexander of 114 Front street, South Portland. Unfamiliar with the streets of Bath and dazed and frightened when left alone the little tot was reliving her highly nervous condition in a flood of tears when discovered by a Bedford street woman about 11 and taken to the grocery store of Charles Arik at 932 High street.

It was nearly an hour before Mr. Arik was able to obtain coherent information from the little tot who was thoroughly frightened in her strange surroundings and her sobbing brought tears to the grocer who is the father of seven children and could appreciate the saddened straits of the little waif who wanted her mother. After repeated efforts of himself and family the child was finally quieted and was able to give some information about herself.

She is in the second grade in the East high street school at South Portland. With her mother she had gone to Brunswick to visit in the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Joseph L. Groves who lives on the Bath road. After breakfast she was sent on an errand to a nearby store and on the way passed an automobilist. When he asked her if she wanted a ride she assented and apparently did not realize she was travelling away from her grandmother's all the time. When she left the car at Oak and High streets and everything looked strange and unfamiliar she commenced to cry. The automobilist continued on his way and she was unable to give any description of him or the car to the police who were later called into the case.

Neither did she realize that she was out of Brunswick for she seemed to believe that Bath was a part of that town. She told Mr. Arik she was visiting in the home of her grandmother and he believing she meant Bath made a vain search by means of the telephone for her relatives. When he learned that it was Brunswick she meant instead of Bath he had little difficulty in locating her grandmother and conveyed the information to the child's mother.

Mr. Arik preferred to have the child remain in his family until the arrival of Mrs. Alexander, giving her a dinner and making her contented by playing with his children.