

V O L . 8 N O . 8 0 - ESTABLISHED 1954 - J A N U A R Y - 1 9 - 1 9 8 0

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M E M B E R S H I P

\$ 1 5 . P E R Y E A R .

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Helen
and
Wilma Thordsen

H I G H G I R L S :

After a rough week of sickness, I was pleased to see all the girls who came last night having a good time. I have been layed up on and off since Xmas. with Asteomelytis Arthritis, which is a detireation of the hip which means one of these days I will have to have a hip replacement. The medication I was taking had some real side effects on my body. I was really glad Mike and Dennie came Friday night as it made me feel more comfortable knowing they were here and would help Wilma. Of course Wilma didn't dress last night just in case any emergancy arose - she would be ready.

Of coruse every one was so helpful - everytime I got up, some one said arent you supposed to be sietting down, and that was it. I had to sit down. What can I say but "THANKS" to all of you, you were a great group. Of course Vi, Kathy and Sonya were a help to Dennie and Wilma as they helped serve the girls the food and then clean up.

Don't know what happened to Joan of Colonie as I don'tever remember her missing a night outside of the Fantasia Fair. Really was looking foeward to see Phyllies coming with Joan. All the girls were asking what happened to Joan? Is Phillis coming tonight? She sounds like a lovely girl. So girls what happened to Joan? I do hope you are all right Joan. Missed my friends Jean and Sally, always enjoyed seeing them here. Of course this goes for all my girls who have been here at one time or another, somehow I look for them, and think maybe this month they will be here, but alaa, no show.

Some how we have been a lucky group as most who come here have been polit kind and very thoughtful. They respect Wilma and I and we in turn can respect them as they are ladylike in all manners and dress., cause no harm or insult to antone. When you can have a group of 20 or more get along so well and respect one another for what they are, you just count your blessings and say Thank God we have met one another and been able to express ourselves and not be rediculed. Society can be mean especially when they do not try to understand their felloe human beings..

In all the years I am happy to say that of all the TV's who have come here to our home, and that is better than 3,000, I have had to put 2 out, as undesirable to me and the group, to me that is a good percentage. Can one say the same about the rest of society that think that we are so bad.

I hope that in these past years the wivws who have been coming here that in some small way I have made them feel comfortable and understanding of a TV's life, as we all have the one thing in common, a TV as a husband. As my role of a TV's wife, I am happy in letting him be what he is. Our life could not be more ~~happi~~ happier than it is now, as we have love and understanding in our 32 years of married life.

Married life is what you make it. We have 2 sidws to our life, one is our ~~TV~~ TV8s and the other is our Social groups of people who we visit and go out with. We have a good time with both groups. Some wives won't acsept TVs because of fear of their neighbors finding out. If you have to live in fear of of your friends, then they to me would not be friends. Then again why should they have to know about your personal life. Everybody at one time or another has a secret. (so let TVing be your secret).

Ellen S. was here last night which we were happy to see, as at the last meeting she had to leave early, not feeling well. Found out a day later when she got home she had Pneumonia, just getting to feel better when she again become sick with a heart problem. Ellen do hope you are feeling much better, stay healthy and happy so that you can be with us for a long time. By the way you looked very pretty as a maid.

Joan M. from poughkeepsie became a new member in our group last night, seems everybody was getting to talk with Joan and making her feel at home.

Oh yes the girls were asking for Kathy and Brances. Well I think I have babbled on enough for now. Do hope to see you all next month. Weather permitting.

Stay healthy, happy and God Bless.

Love
Helen.

W I L M A ' S V I E W S

Once upon a time, way back in 1950s there was a soldier by the name George Jorgensen. He was a nice quiet mildmannered boy, and no one outside of his own family suspected that he was different from any other guy.

But George was different. And he was very unhappy. Finally after trying to commit suicide, he went to Denmark, home of his forefathers, and returned to America months later - as a woman.

Christine Jorgensen was a pioneer in the truest sense of the word; an explorer on uncharted waters. No one had ever before dared undergo a complicated operation a very dangerous one, to change their sex.

As Christine would say years later "I had to do it. It was that or another suicide attempt. You see I was a woman, trapped in a man's body".

To-day, many unhappy men have been changed into women - and many women have had similar operations to change into men.

These operations are almost always medically successful, as far as the physical changes are concerned. Complete mental changes are a different matter. Some transsexuals have later regretted the change. Why?

Medical doctors and psychiatrists still do not know what could cause a man to feel... "trapped into the body of the wrong sex". Is it confused upbringing? Is it hereditary? Is it a hormone imbalance? Was there an abrupt switch in the genetic plan in the fatal stage in the mother's womb? There are many questions, many theories. But no definite answers.

People used to make cruel jokes about Christine Jorgensen. At the time, being the first of her kind, she was a freak. But this is no longer true, as there are now so many who have had the complicated operation which also includes extensive hormone treatments and hundreds of hours of psychotherapy.

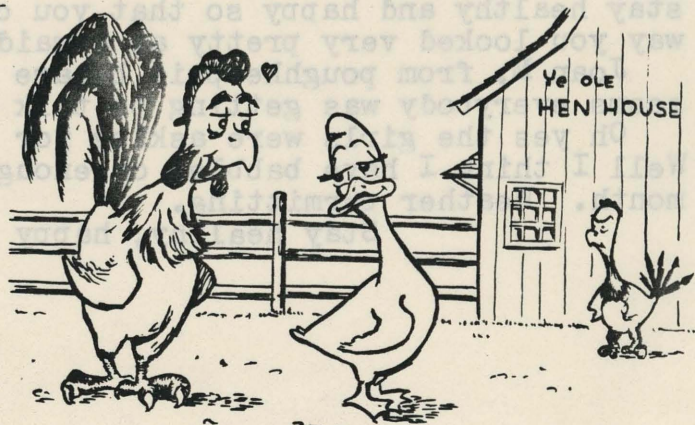
For many people, such a desire is hard to understand. For many people the thought of switching sexes is repulsive and horrifying. But humans aren't all alike - and we shouldn't be made to conform, if we don't wish to do so. After all, if a chick would be beautiful except for her badly formed nose, would you laugh at her for having it fixed? With a perfect nose, she becomes the glamour girl she's always wanted to be - and she finds fulfillment. It's the same with the transsexual. And we shouldn't deny anyone a happy life.

A good, practical system to find out how much rehearsing and practice you need is to pretend someone is going to take your picture. Stand in front of a full length mirror and strike up a pose. Does it come easily? Do you know what to do with yourself, your hands? Or do you feel like a sack of potatoes? If you have to struggle like mad to achieve a half-way feminine pose then you surely need practice. Lots of it. Do the same thing sitting down and getting up. Does the image in the mirror look graceful? Or does it look like King Kong's daughter sitting on top of the Empire State Building? Look at the girls on television see how they walk and move about the room. Then march in front of your mirror - see the difference? (did the mirror break?) If you don't then you must have had too much to drink--cut it out! And another thing. No matter how difficult it may be, do your best to learn to zip and unzip yourself in and out of any dress. Do not expose yourselves to the possibility of having to rip a good frock to pieces.

Males having high-pitched voices have always been somewhat of a novelty. However it is an interesting fact to note that an extensive study of female impersonators and of transvestites has revealed that whereas the female impersonator has generally recognized his desire in his early or middle teens --- the average transvestite usually does not begin to become aware of his desires until 30 yrs of age or older. Further study showed that the female impersonator usually stays single, and the transvestite usually is married, or gets married, with the hopes that he will lessen the desire. Marriage in such cases only seems to result in guilt complexes or frustration. (any of you married transvestites wish to comment on this. The Journal is yours.)

READ GIVE AWAYS: (1) When cleaning one's nose do not use your fingers, use a Kleenex. (2) When using the opposite sex's restroom, sit do not stand. (3) Lots of cleavage is fine if you're the real McCoy but as a transvestite it's a NO NO. (4) If a short dress or skirt is to be worn do not use garters use panty hose.

FASHION: With those layered chiffons we are wearing this year, even the gentle persuasion of snug sanitary panties offer the firmness to achieve that barely there look. If you must use hose then use a garter belt and stockings. A 15 denier of sheer feels bare and tender beige will give you the sheen you need.



"What say, Ducky? . . . I get tired of chicken every day."

PARTY LANUARY 19TH :

Here are the names of the girls who attended the party last night.

- DEE DEE & VIE W...HARTFORD...CONN...MICHELL & DENNIE B..SOMERVILLE..MASS...
- CYITHIA & SONJA M.NORWALK....CONN...PAULA & KATHAY D....LANESBORO...MASS...
- REL.NE C.....STRATFORD..CONN...EILEEN J.....POUGHKEEPSIE..N.Y..
- PERCILLA S.....HARTFORD...CONN...JOAN M.....POUGHKEEPSIE..N.Y..
- HELEN & WILMA.....ALBANY.....N.Y...WINNIE B.....SCHENECTADY...N.Y..
- SUSAN M.....ALBANY.....N.Y...ELLEN S.....ENDICOTT.....N.Y..
- ELANDA M.....ROME.....N.Y...MURIEL W.....GENESE0.....N.Y..

PARTY TIME :

Our next two party dates will be FEBRUARY 16th and MARCH 15th.

NEW MEMBERS :

I am pleased to announce the enrollment of a new member.

PERCILLA S... HARTFORD...CONN...

It was so nice to have you with us Percilla, and we hope that you will be able to attend many of our future parties and meet some wonderful people.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY :

Feb... 1..Alice M [redacted]..... Feb...18...John P [redacted]....

Feb... 9..Dianna M [redacted]..... Feb 18Richard G [redacted]....

Feb...15..Andre P [redacted]..... Feb...26...Francis G [redacted]....

Please forgive for not listing Sonja G [redacted] birthday on Jan. 8th.

Helen and I wish you all a happy birthday and may you become pretier as you grow older.

HAPPY ANNEVERY :

Helen and I wish Mr. & Mrs D. Baily many happy returns on their wedding Annve

S*P*E C I A L T H A N K S D E P A R T M E N T :

My special thanks to Michell Ann for the printing of the extra membership list that you will find enclosed with your Journal.
Helen & I thank all of our members around the United States, Canada and Europe for all the lovely Chtistmas Cards that you sent us.

My special thanks to Paula D., JaniceM., Muriel W., Ellen S., Leslie Q. and Cynthia M for the extra \$ sent in for first class postage.
Any one else who is receiving their Journal 3rd class mail and would like to receive it faster by first class mail, just send in the extra \$2....

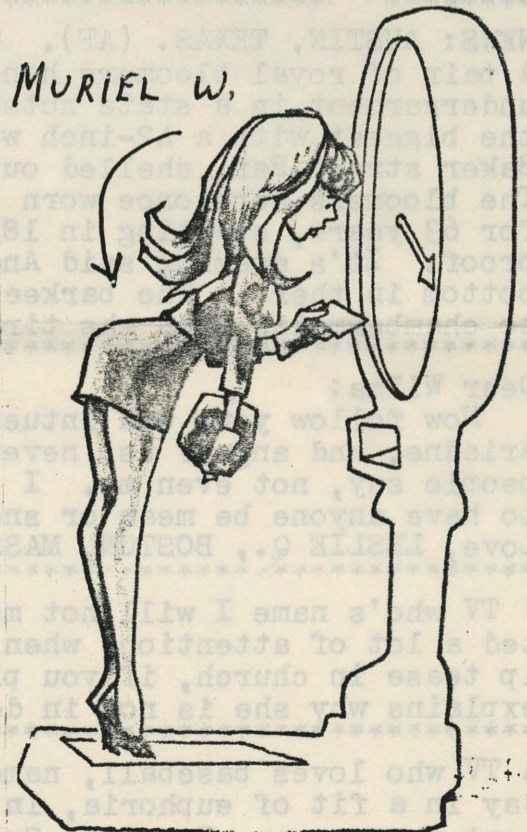
My special thanks to all who have sent in all those beautiful pictures for for the club Album. There were so many of you this month that I did not have room to list each one of you. Many Thanks. W I L M A.

CONTROL PANTIE BRIEFS: If you are going to wear form fits, straight lines or fitted and really don't have to use strict girdle control then the spendex power net "control pantie x girdle" will excite you. You will make yourself scarce in these light little shape tamers that come in high thigh or regular leg brief and bikini and are available in adorable bra and brief sets, color or floral.

SUMMER UNDER THINGS: The yticot or antron slip and pantie x set yoy just could not live without. I'm sure it is quite darlinf, but form warm weather dressing the synthetics do not breath & allow air to circulate through. The lettle sew intags read 40-60 cotton & whatever. So wear cotton around the house and kitchen and save those slippery layered tricots for fun times. Comfy and cool or cute and sassy, dress for all occasions.

VIE W. SAYS: Girls, always put perfume between your knees before you leave the house--you never know whom you might run into.....

SANDY E. , SAYS: If a single girl is pregnant is this a misconception?



"You are a boy dressed like a girl."

NEWS: CURIOUS "MICK" GETS UNKIND CUT. LONDON (AP)- What does a Scotsman wear under his kilt? Magistrates at London's Bow Street court heard on Tuesday how an Irishman with a need to know tried to find out. Police witnesses said James O'Connor rushed up to Peter Keany as the kilted Scotsman took a Sunday stroll beside the river Thames in London and yelled: "I'm going to find what you've got under there". But Keany, 26, was not abiding. Police said a fight started and O'Connor received a cut arm from Keany's skean dhu, the tradition dagger worn with Scottish dress in the top of the sock. Keany who pleaded guilty to unlawfully wounding, was given a suspended six-week jail sentence. Footnote: Tradition says scots wear nothing under their kilts (and I always thought they wore PANTIES?)

Dear Wilma:

The controversy continues - accusations, denials, bad-mouthing on both sides and throughout it all, both sides are the losers because the one thing we TVs don't need is to be divided. In unity at least there is a semblance of strength but this Fantasia Fair/Outreach hassle has gone on now for a year or more without any sign of resolution.

So far as I am concerned, there are some large "gray areas" and until they are clarified I and many others cannot be sure whether Ariadne Kane is a selfless, dedicated, full-time worker and protagonist for the TV movement, or merely a very skilled and plausible con artist preying on the weaknesses of others. In DeeDee's letter last month she said that she supported Ariadne and would continue to do so until she saw her driving around in a chauffeur-driven Cadillac. With the greatest respect to DeeDee, I might point out that one can have a very respectable bank balance without splurging it on chauffeurs and Caddies.

If I were Ariadne and wanted to retain my image of integrity and devotion to what she likes to call "This paraculture", I would publish, through this Newsletter and other widely-read media in the TV scene some or all of the following:

1. A simple balance-sheet of the last Fantasia Fair, showing revenues and expenditures so that we could understand the difference, for instance between the \$45-50 per night charged for rooms, and the \$12 for which FF is charged for the same rooms.
2. An understandable outline of the Outreach Foundation - who its officers are, what fees they are paid, a statement of its assets and exactly how these assets are disbursed - not merely an ambiguous generalization such as "counseling" which could mean almost anything.

One last piece of advice I would like to offer - if anyone would be a leader or organizer in this widely-spectrumed group of individuals, the getting on to one's high horse when opinions diverge is a luxury best avoided.

Paula [REDACTED]

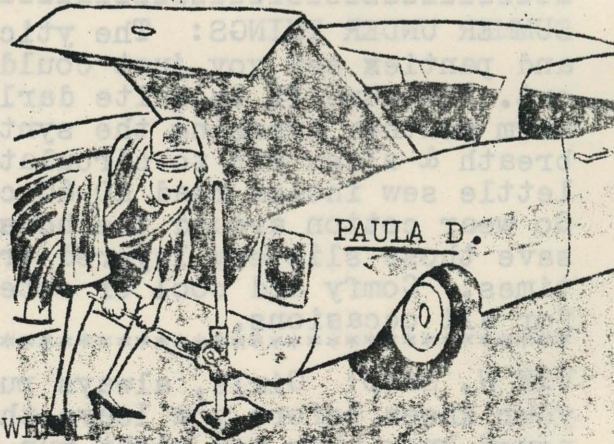
NEWS: AUSTIN, TEXAS. (AP). QUEEN * SIZED BLOOMERS BRING \$3000. A pair of royal bloomers hanging in a Texas traven may be the most expensive undergarment in a state noted for extravagance. And it is certainly among the biggest with a 42-inch waistline. Jim Anderson, owner of Sherlock's Baker street Bar, shelled out \$3000 for the underwear at a auction in Canada. The bloomers were once worn by Queen Victoria, who ruled the British Empire for 63 years, starting in 1873. There's a royal seal on the waistband as proof. It's amazing said Anderson, The Queen of England once had her bare bottom in there. The barkeep said the Queen frequently gave her underthings to chambermaids when she tired of them he said. (he can have mine for 50¢)

Dear Wilma:

Now follow your own intuetion, about Ariadne, and any of us, nevermind what people say, not even me. I just dont like to have anyone be mean or snobby to anyone. Love, LESLIE Q., BOSTON, MASS.

A TV who's name I will not mention attracted a lot of attention, when she did a strip tease in church, if you please. Which explains why she is now in detention.

A TV who loves baseball, named Gloria, one day in a fit of euphoria, in a most exal-lent manner sang The Star Spangled Banner, Stark naked, at a game in Peoria.



WHEN A MAN'S NOT AROUND FORGET Y OU'RE A TV.

Dec. 1, 1979

Dear Wilma:

I notice that nobody has yet answered the inquiry about rubber clothing which ran a month or so ago. Perhaps nobody else who is a member of TVIC is "into" it, or perhaps they are too embarrassed to report it publicly.

Well, I am very much "into" rubber clothes--literally into it. I have an extensive rubber wardrobe, much of it in femme wear, although not all.

It is difficult to explain the attraction of rubber, even as it is difficult to explain why one is a transvestite. Only occasionally do you find someone who understands, perhaps one one hundredth of the time one finds someone who understands TV.

The books and articles say rubber becomes a fetish because of its connection with the security of babyhood. That was when I laid on rubber sheets, wore rubber pants, etc. Now the experts say the fetish will change to plastic since that is what today's babies wear.

It really doesn't matter where the love of rubber comes from. Most of those I know who wear rubber have done so for a long time; new converts are rare.

It is the lovely swish of ~~rubber~~ rubber, the rustle of rubber pants or a rubber skirt which fascinate me. Someone asks, "But don't you get all hot and sweaty when you wear rubber?" The answer is yes, and that, too is part of the pleasure of wearing rubber as is its odor, which many people--especially women, find offensive.

Many of those who wear rubber are not TVs, but adult babies. They, indeed, are throwbacks to their infancy, wearing diapers under their rubber pants, drinking from baby bottles, etc, ~~but~~ *keeping a male role.*

But the people who make rubber clothing--all of them very expensive--say that 80 to 90 % of the feminine rubber clothing they sell is sold to men.

What may or may not accompany rubber wear is the idea of "petticoat punishment." I have two maids outfits in rubber which I wear to do housework, as a sign, I suppose, of "humility."

Kind of
Almost all ^{femme} clothing is made in rubber--bras, girdles, stockings, gloves, blouses, skirts, dresses. It is all quite expensive. The biggest U.S. supplier, Slimwear of America (Hose of Milan) recently added about 40% to its prices which were already very high.

The English manufacturers are somewhat more reasonable and have some delightful things. There are least three of them. One deals ⁱⁿ unlimited, but ~~inexpensive~~ inexpensive, line. The other two have a wide variety of things and will also do custom work.

Some years ago, I designed my own clothes and had them made in England. Pam, Crystal and I spent one evening trying on one of my more beautiful dresses, alas long gone.

Recently, I have found a new ~~maiz~~ supplier in Canada who does excellent work to custom design and at relatively reasonable prices. His ready to wear is concentrated in baby things, rain capes, nightwear and ^{aprons}, but he has been making other things for me.

I am sure that I have not given a satisfactory answer to your correspondent as to why rubber clothing is fun, most enjoyable to some of us. I actually started when I was 7 or 8, buying rubber baby pants in Woolworth's and a ~~raincape~~ raincape in a drugstore. *I have loved it ever since.*

(CONTINUE ON PAGE 6)

It was only about eight years ago that I discovered the manufacturers and was able to start accumulating what I now have. Incidentally, the clothes must be washed, carefully dried and powdered if it is to last.

For one of your meetings, I would like to wear one of my maid's uniforms, or my ~~xxxxxx~~ absolutely fabulous wrap skirt, which would pass muster in public, so nicely is it made.

I hope you hear from others besides me. Somehow, I get the impression that I am one of the few who is always revealing some inward quirk which I am sure many, ~~we~~ even TVs, frown upon.

Sincerely,

Ellen S .

NEWS: MURDER CHARGED IN SHOOTING: by Harold Kennedy (News staff writer) A Vestavia Hills motel manger was chargef with first degree murder in the shooting death of Birmingham beautician Jody Susan Ford and was released under \$5000 bond. Larry Clifford Maddox, 26, of the Travel Lodge Motel on Highway 31 South, is charged with the shooting of Ford, who underwent a sex change operation several years ago, said Lt. Joe Stewart, Vestavia Police Department. THE shooting, said Stewart, apparently involved from a dispute wich started in the parking lot of the Brookwood Theater near Brookwood Mall. "A statment seems to have been made in the theater parking lot that was taken offense to," said Stewart. THERE was an argument there, and further argument as they in separated cars left for Vestavia Hills; Stewart said THE argument resumed when both cars pulled into the travel lodge motel parking lot, and some blows apparently were thrown. A gun was brought into the dispute and Ford was killed by a single blast to the chest."Stewart said a 16x gauge shotgun was used. AS far as can be determined, Ford and Maddox never had seen each other prior to this encounter," Steward said. FORD was 41 years old, came into the news in 1972 when he made public through a Birmingham News article that he intended to undergo a sex change operation. he owned at the time a beauty shop in Five points South called "Mr. Sids." THE shop was renamed "Ms. Sid's" following the sex change operation a year or so later, and eventually Ford's name was changed to Jody Susan Ford. IN an interview with THE NEWS, Ford said he had wanted to be a woman since old enough to remember. FORD said he had been arrested more than a dozen times for being dressed like a woman, but that the cases had been thrown out of court because there is no law against it.

Dear Wilma:

I support wholeheartedly the views expressed by Dee Dee regarding the OUTREACH INSTITUTE and Ariadne Kane in the November issue of the "Newsletter." None of us is perfect, and we all make mistakes once in a while. However, it is my sincere hope that each of us will (1) avoid confrontation, whether in private or in public, (2) be as flexible as people in resolving quietly any disputes and (3) think of the general welfare of all of us, and of the great harm that accrues to each of us when "dirty linen" is arried in public.

I support the goals for which the Outreach Institute stands, and its current officers. If I could afford to attend Fantasia Fair I would gladly pay a ~~xxx~~ premium over actual costs to the O.I. as a contribution to furtherising the work that it does... MURIAL W...GENESE0..N.Y.

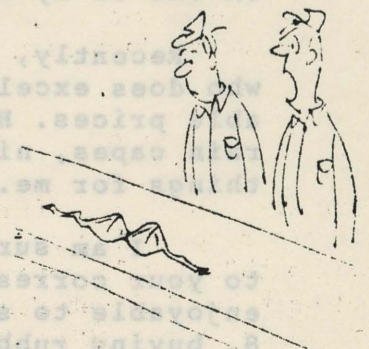
JOKE: Three TV's - Dee Dee, Connie and Wilma seating themselves at the corner table may have been well along in years but their mood was obviously a young one. Rember girls admonished Dee Dee, as they picked up their menus, "this is our night to howl. Now what shall we start with - Scotch, Burbon or marinated herring?"

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Is transvestism a natural thing and is it a healthy thing? How about some letters on this question for our readers....

NEWS: San Jose has become the forth major city in California to ban discrimination against homosexuals in housing and employment. Los Angeles, Berkeley and San Francisco have passed similar ordiances. The Los Angeles ordenabce is written in a way that it also protects tran svestites and transexuals from discrimination.

LIPSTICK: Something beautiful has happened to lipstick and nail polish. COVER GIRL lip gloss and nail polish gives that wet look and it lasts.



"Murphy's on another purge!"

Dear Willma:

Question 5 in the latest issue of the TVIC Journal interests me because I can speak from experience.

First, the "how" I shop for my femme clothes. Since I have let my interest in femme clothes become apparent to a saleslady in a local tall girls shop, I Don't hesitate to bring my prosthesis filled brassiere and wig form in two plastic bags to the store. The bags are colorful because they were obtained while making previous femme purchases, but they don't contain any words that advertise the femme clothes store. I am allowed to use the " powder" room instead of the fitting rooms. A clothes hook has been mounted on the inside of the powder room for me, per the saleslady. Once I have dressed in femme clothes with wig and without makeup, I exit the powder room for the main area of the store. A mirror is mounted on a door of the "backroom." A three-way mirror is located in a more central area of the store. I have used that one when I purchased my fur collared winter coat.

The same store sells shoes. I have tried these on in the other " backroom" where shoes are stored simply because I was not wearing my wig or prosthesis filled brassiere on occasions of shoe buying.

Other tall girl shops sharing a chain of stores in northern and central New Jersey are equally cooperative. These shops are named "Tall Towne Fashions". For example, I have purchased slacks and a blouse in the Newark, N.J. store while using the fitting room. I have bought a gold chain necklace in the East Orange, N.J. store, but I didn't try it on in the store as I was not dressed en femme. Love...Janice M....Middlesex...N.J.....

SHANGRI-LA BECOMES A NATIONAL CLUB

T.V.I.C. members who have attended the annual Shangri-La convention for crossdressers on the Gulf Coast will be glad to hear that the group's leader, Nancy Watson, has organized a national club of the same name--with the four-day annual event as its special feature. Later on, she plans to sponsor another such event in the Mid-West and one on the West Coast. It should be emphasized that Shangri-La is strictly a social club for TV's all over the country who wish to meet en femme and venture out in public at these special social functions. Educational aspects will be left to other organizations. The club will expand its existing newsletter FRILLY TALES, which will continue to be published quarterly, and will issue a national directory of the Shangri-La membership as well as a directory of clubs, shops and restaurants around the country where TV's are accepted en femme. For membership details, write:

Nancy [redacted]

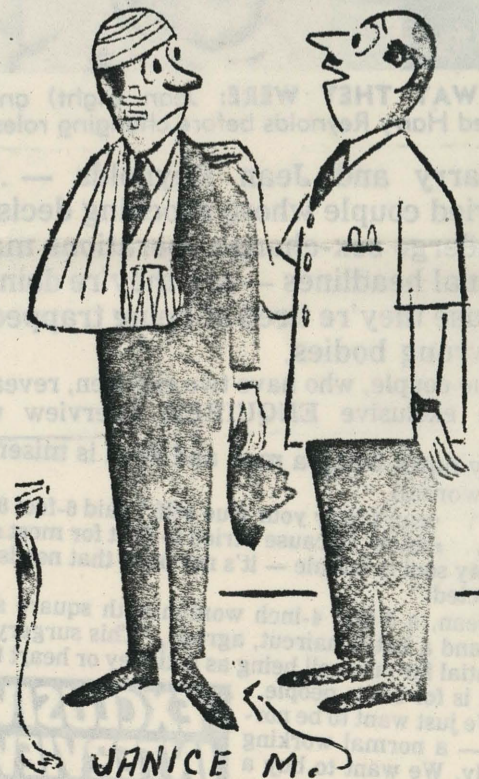
The annual Shangri-La weekend is open to all crossdressers as before, but non-members of the club will be charged extra, so it will pay to join and reap the fringe benefits as well--especially if you plan to attend any Shangri-La event in the future. It should be made clear that this newly-formed club will not compete in any way with well-established clubs such as T.V.I.C. Albany. They all serve our needs and we all need each other!

Cynthia M. ..Norwalk...Conn... SAYS: Do-it-yourself TS surgery; When your long fingernails are on and you are wearing a body shirt, put together the snaps in the crotch.

NEWS: One man with the courage of his convictions is carrying equal employment to its logical conclusion and is taking airline stewardess training at Santa Ana, Calif. "smile school". So far he's doing OK despite some ribbing; at 5'6" and 39-31-35, he is only moderately out of line with the rest of the class of 108. He doesn't plan to take the job (if offered one) but says he's interested in breaking down the "mystique of femininity". I don't think it's necessarily true that there is such a separation between men and women. The instructor, added, "We might even get him to pluck those eyebrows a little".

KATHY D. says: The Fanny Farmer Cook Book should be given out to every newlywedded couple---after all, what could a new bride do without her FANNY?-----

DENNIE B. says: Do you know who makes the best mothers? ---MEN---



"I keep telling you those 4-inch heels are dangerous."

Sex Change Couple Reveal Why They're Doing It



TODAY: "We just want to be a normal family," says Jean (right), shown with "Harry" and their daughter, 22-month-old Kathy.



THE WAY THEY WERE: Jean (right) and bearded Harry Reynolds before changing roles.

Harry and Jean Reynolds — the married couple whose shocking decision to undergo sex-change operations made national headlines — say they're doing it because they're tired of being trapped in the wrong bodies.

The couple, who have two children, revealed in an exclusive ENQUIRER interview why

Harry hates being a man and Jean is miserable as a woman.

"You can't bury your true self," said 6-foot 8-inch Harry. "I know, because I tried to do it for most of my life. My soul is female — it's my body that needs to be corrected."

Jean, a 5-foot 4-inch woman with square shoulders and a butch haircut, agreed, "This surgery is as essential for our well being as a kidney or heart transplant is for some people."

"We just want to be normal — a normal working family. We want to buy a house someday and we want to keep our family together." In addition to Harry, 34, and Jean, 25, the family includes their daughter, 22-month-old Kathy, and 7-year-old Barbie

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

— Harry's daughter by a previous wife. And while Harry and Jean think switching sexes is super, little Barbie isn't so sure.

"I get mixed up with her," Barbie said, rolling her big brown eyes toward Jean.

"Sometimes I call her Mama — but I'm supposed to call her Jean. I get mixed up because I used to call her Mama."

Harry and Jean live in Benson, Ariz., but neither has a job because they've been ostracized by the community. In fact, they've been evicted from one house, ordered out of their present home, heckled in public and merchants refuse to cash their checks.

"People think I'm some kind of freak in a sideshow," Harry said, stroking his long brown hair. "We don't want pity or sympathy — we want understanding. We really are human."

Harry, who recently changed his name to Sheila Marie and is already undergoing electrolysis and hormone treatments in preparation for his sex-change operation, has already assumed the role of housewife.

"I can outcook Jean 10 ways to Sunday," Harry boasted. "And I can outclean her 30 ways to Monday."

But being chided about her housekeeping doesn't bother Jean, who's assumed the masculine role of head of the household.

"I was an ugly mother," Jean admits.

Harry, wearing a green dress, pink lipstick and size 12 white sandals, described how it feels to be a transsexual:

"When I was growing up, I never felt comfortable about myself — but I didn't know why. I never fit in with any of the things the guys were doing. I just felt out of place."

Harry said he liked "pretty things" and always wanted to wear dresses, but didn't realize he was a transsexual until he was 24 and into his third marriage.

"The realization hit me," Harry said, "and I knew then that all the confusion I'd felt had been my natural desire to be what I should've been all my life — a woman."

"I was living a lie, yet I was afraid of the hassles and indignities that I'd have to face. So I grew a beard and let my hair grow long and scraggly. I also got into alcohol and drugs."

Jean, dressed in a cowboy shirt and jeans, said that as a child she played with boys' toys, carried out the garbage and shoveled snow off the sidewalk.

"I tried to be feminine," Jean said. "Mainly because of girlfriends who were constantly combing their hair and talking about boys. I tried to get along, to fit in, but I was mostly a loner."

"And I didn't care about going out with guys — I was one of the guys."

Jean said she was so mixed up that she even got into homosexual relationships with other girls. "For a time, I felt I was a lesbian," she said.

Despite her confusion, Jean eventually married and had two children — but that didn't work out either.

"When I had children, I was put in a feminine role of being called mother and doing housework," Jean said. "I became totally unhappy, so I gave my husband the kids and ran away."

Jean said she finally realized she was a transsexual in 1973, and called the realization, "relief, elation and freedom." Then, in 1976, Jean met Harry and it was love at first sight.

"When I first laid eyes on him, I wanted to hold him and comfort him," she said. "Others saw this 6-foot 8-inch, long-haired, bearded, rough-and-tough macho man."

"I didn't see that at all. I don't know how I knew, but I knew that he was a woman inside. But Harry wouldn't talk about it."

Harry and Jean married in October 1976, and Kathy was born a year later. Each pretended to be happy, but the pressure built up and last February, Harry blew his top.

"It reached the point where I couldn't stand being what I was any longer," Harry said. "I screamed at Jean, 'You've stolen my baby! You've taken my baby!'"

Harry explained that he felt he was the one who should've had the baby and it was then that he decided to become Sheila instead of Harry.

"The beard came off and out went all the men's clothing," Harry said. "But I'm not impersonating a woman — I am a woman!"

Jean added that the aggressive, pent-up Harry turned into a "passive, sensitive, shy Sheila who loves flowers and pretty things." She added that once Harry decided to become a woman, she decided to become a man.

And Harry, gazing fondly at the woman who will become his husband, offered one other reason for wanting to have a sex-change operation. "This may sound absurd," he said. "But, believe it or not, the most painful thing that I'm going through right now is that I'm a 35-year-old virgin!"

"Sure, I was able to have sex as a male, but there was never any real satisfaction. And now I have all these desires in me. If I could just get my surgery, I could go out and exercise my full physical rights as a woman."

— BELINDA HARE
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