

Shock secret

TRAGIC David Botterill's marriage to a raven-haired, blue-eyed beauty was doomed.

For what he didn't know was that his bride Debbie was a man who had undergone a sex change operation.

When he found out three months later, they broke up, and David tried to kill himself by drinking anti-freeze.

He recovered to find happiness with a married woman. But that relationship ended when she left the district.

Depressed

And soon afterwards the 28-year-old unemployed man was found dead in a garage—gassed by carbon monoxide fumes from his car exhaust.

David's tangled love-life was described to an inquest at Preston, Lancashire.

His mother, Mrs Hilda Botterill, of Yew Tree Avenue, Preston, said he was depressed about it.

He and Debbie were married at a Manchester register office in 1980.

Then David, of Lin-

of sad Dave's bride

coln House, Preston, discovered the truth about his bride.

"He threw the person out," said Mrs Botterill. "But it still played on his mind, and seemed to trouble him from time to time."

The last time she saw him alive he told her the second relationship had ended.

The inquest heard that police had taken no action over the bogus marriage.

Coroner Mr Howard McCann recorded an open verdict.

"There is no evidence that he killed himself, although there is a suspicion," the Coroner said.

After the hearing Mrs Botterill said: "No-one would ever have guessed Debbie wasn't a woman."