

Daily Mail 18/10/82

Bizarre secret of a young mother-to-be

A COUPLE who were given a council flat during the wife's pregnancy revealed yesterday that they are both women.

Today an investigation is to be made into how Sharon Osborne and Sandra Irvine got their £12-a-week flat in Plymouth, Devon.

The couple have lived together for four years as Mr and Mrs Osborne. Sharon Osborne, 23, who was brought up in a foster home, began to dress as a man when she was 17. She calls herself Ossie.

Miss Irvine, 20, who expects her first baby next month, said yesterday: 'We decided Ossie would be breadwinner and do all the things a man does around the home.

'I look on myself as the wife—working and cleaning, mending and ironing.'

They wanted a family, but 'Ossie' did not like the idea of Miss Irvine being artificially inseminated by an anonymous donor.

So they decided to find a stranger, acceptable to both of them, to father their child, and who would

By PETER HOOLEY

not pester them afterwards. They succeeded. A 'tall, handsome candidate with a nice personality' according to 'Ossie'.

'I was ecstatic when I knew Sandra was pregnant. I can't see any problems in a couple like us bringing up a child. I shall expect him to call me Dad.

'It will be an extraordinary thing for a child to take in, but he will have to be told at some stage.'

An investigation has been ordered by Plymouth housing committee chairman Mr Tom Jones.