

Ruby A Todd, Joint Co-ordinator of the
Scottish TV/TS Group

The Coming Out of Ruby A. Todd:

As the joint co-ordinator of the Scottish TV/TS Group I have had to make a number of visits to organisations, companies, firms, hotels, pubs and shops when "cross-dressed" as Ruby A Todd, seeking facilities for group members and arranging for our members to shop for female clothing, shoes, wigs and make-up without any problems. In most cases I have been received and treated with every respect. The results of my visits and the facilities obtained are indicated in the monthly newsletter of the Scottish TV/TS Group, the "Tartan Skirt".

At the March monthly meeting a member who lives in Edinburgh raised the question if he should use his ridacard on Lothian Regional buses, when "cross-dressed".

I said I would raise the point with the Director of Lothian Regional Transport, now that we had produced membership cards with a space for a 'male' and a 'female' photograph.

I wrote to Mr Charles Evans, Director of Lothian Regional Transport on the 5th April 1985.

I sent a copy of this letter to a Labour Councillor who is a member of the Transport Committee of Lothian Regional Council, for his

Russel A Fox



If telephoning please ask for

Dear Ms Todd,
Thank you for your letter
the use of Lothian Region

23 April 1985
Dear Ms Todd

Scottish TV/TS Group - Use of Ridacards

I refer to your letter of 15 April concerning your members' difficulties
in connection with LRT Ridacards.
I discussed at a meeting of the Labour Group held on Monday
11 April 1985 when we unanimously agreed the view that the explanation
of the difficulties in Public Transport in his letter of 11 April 1985

information and asking for the support of the Labour group members on the Transport Committee.

I received a reply from Mr Charles Evans, dated 11th April. (copy illustrated).

I replied to Mr Evans on the 15th April, pointing out the facilities that existed to facilitate the travel of transvestites and transsexuals by the issue of passports, travel by British Rail, and when a member driving a car 'cross-dressed' was stopped by a police officer. (copy of letter enclosed.)

It would seem that someone 'leaked' this correspondence to the press, together with my male name of Russell A. Fox, and details of my service on the former Edinburgh Town Council as a Councillor for 16 years, as an ex-Bailie, and an ex-Judge of Police, and at present a Justice of the Peace for the District of Edinburgh. Also the fact that I am a full-time Trade Union official.

For on the evening of Wednesday 17th April 1985 a reporter of the "Edinburgh Evening News" telephoned me. I asked how they had got information of the correspondence and I was informed that "they had received copies of the letters".

At the end of the telephone conversation he asked if I could be called "an Edinburgh business-man". I agreed that I could be called that! The item appeared in the "Edinburgh Evening News" on Friday 19th April, without reference to my actual male name.

On Saturday 20th April, in the afternoon, a reporter of the Sunday Mail/Daily Record group telephoned my house. I was informed they had received the same information as the "Edinburgh Evening News" and was going to run the story, with details of the background as a male. They wished to come to my house and photograph me in my 'female' role. After discussion I agreed, provided that they did not name the organisation by whom I was employed. This was agreed.

The article did not appear in the 'Sunday Mail', but it did in the issue of the "Daily Record" of Monday 22nd April, with a photograph of me as "Ruby A Todd" and a photograph of myself as "Russell A Fox". The northern editions of the 'Daily Mirror' printed in Manchester carried the article, but without any photographs.

I have often wondered what would be the reaction of friends, relations, and fellow employees, to 'coming out' as a transvestite.

It is quite different for a 'gay' coming out who would still dress the same.

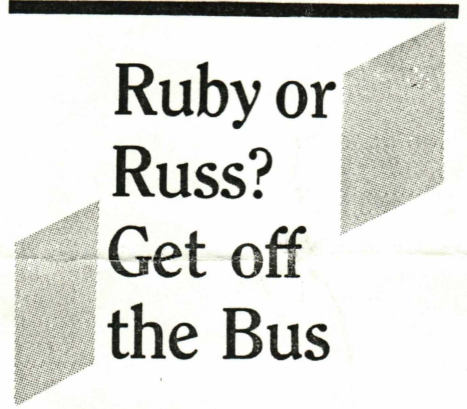
But as a transvestite you will be pointed out, with the remark, "he dresses as a woman!"

That day, Monday, I went about my business, visiting many places and having to speak to people, some I have known for over 30 years. Most were supportive. One or two remarked that I looked better as a woman than as a man. I accepted that!! A number of men who take up a very masculine view of life were hostile, with the view that I was letting the male side down!

Many women, especially young girls, were very supportive. The majority view was 'that what you do after you finish work, is your own business'.

That evening I had a flood of telephone calls, mostly from transvestites and transsexuals from all over Scotland, and a few from south of the border. It was very welcome.

The next evening, Tuesday, four of our 'girls' who live in Edinburgh or nearby, invited me to join them 'dressed' in the Laughing Duck for a drink with them. They all were very interested in the reaction and experience of someone coming out as a transvestite.



—Helpful advice from the DAILY MIRROR, 22/4/85

The next day, Wednesday, in my post was a letter from the secretary of the Labour Group on Lothian Regional Council, Councillor Paul Nolan, informing me that the subject of my correspondence with the Director of Transport had been discussed at a meeting of the Labour Group, and that "... when the Group were unanimously of the view that the explanation

given by the Director of Public Transport... adequately dealt with the situation." (copy illus.)

As a member of the Labour Party for 48 years, since a boy of 16, I am sorry that the Labour Councillors on Lothian Regional Council cannot give support to a small group, when most working class parties give support to minorities with a different sexual or gender orientation.

It is now two weeks since the article appeared in the "Daily Record".

I have never felt so relaxed and contented in all my life.

I know who are my true friends—coming out as a transvestite sorts the men from the boys, and in our case, the women from the girls!

One result of the article was the great increase in the mail to the Scottish TV/TS Group, asking about our meetings and activities. Many thousands all over Scotland and the North of England now know there is an active, open group willing to help any transvestite or transsexual who wants to help, support, and an opportunity of meeting other TVs and TSs 'dressed'.

I was glad to receive sincere support from the Scottish Homosexual Rights Group (SHRG), and the members of the Edinburgh Gay Switchboard.

Ruby A. Todd

M/S RUBY A. TODD, is the Joint Co-ordinator of the Scottish TV/TS Group (The Scottish Transvestite/Transsexual Group.), and Editor of *The Tartan Skirt* the newsletter of the Scottish TV/TS Group.

The Scottish TV/TS Group is an open group formed in June 1984.

RUBY A. TODD is the 'femme name' of RUSSELL A. FOX.

RUSSELL A. FOX came to Edinburgh in March 1953 from his native town of Great Yarmouth. He has been a member of the Labour Party since 1936. Was Labour Councillor for the Craigmillar Ward of the old Edinburgh Town Council from November 1959 to May 1975, a total of over 15 years. Was a Bailie of the City from 1968 to 1971. Was a Judge of Police from 1971 to 1975. Was a Justice of the Peace for the City of Edinburgh in 1969, and is a full-time official of USDAW (Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers).

He is the author of *History of Members of the Labour Party elected to Edinburgh Town Council: 1909 to 1971*, published in 1971.

Note of the History of the Bailies of the City of Edinburgh published in 1973, and other books and booklets on labour and trade union history. A member of the Scottish Labour History Society.

WHY MS RUBY FOX TRAVEL SNAG

By HAMISH LEAL

editor of their newsletter, Tarnan Skirt. They are campaigning to get the Transport Department to accept their double life. But the Region's Transport Director, Charles Evans, has turned down the suggestion. In a letter to the group, "If you feel that you could be con- sidered as a transvestite, then the best way round this problem is to pay the normal bus fare."

Mr Fox, 63, is a widower who lives in the Strath-borough district of Edinburgh. "Yesterday he said he frequently went out in a ladies hat, fur coat and dress and regarded himself as a 'nice mature lady from Morangside."

Fox's Ridacard shows him dressed as a man. And it causes confusion for bus drivers when he and other transvestites try to use the card.

And the double life of the former councillor, police judge and union official has created a poser for Lothian Region's Transport Department.

For the identity photograph on Mr Fox's Ridacard.

For Ruby, "a nice mature lady from Morningside," is a MAN Justice of the Peace Russell Fox.

TRAVELLING on the buses has its problems for Ms Ruby Todd.

From The Daily Record of April 22nd 1985

For the identity photograph on Mr Fox's Ridacard.

RUBY TODD TAILPIECE

Ruby's campaign was referred to Lothian Region Labour Party's Planning and Transport Working Party which *unanimously* decided to advise the Labour Party that transvestites should be given dual-photo bus passes and so the issue will be reconsidered.

(Ian Dunn).

The Scottish TV/TS Group

Joint Co-ordinators;

Ruby A. Todd,
Vannessa Holt

Reply to:-

C/o FOX
137 Whitson Road
EDINBURGH EH11 3EO

Tuesday 9th July 1985

STACY NOVOK
TransEssex

Dear Stacy,

Herewith photocopy of the July issue of GAY SCOTLAND.
but was well represented on pages 8 and 9!!

I did not make page 3,

The photograph of me as RUBY A TODD was taken in the Laughing Duck a big gay pub in Edinburgh's new town that we use, and also hold our Disco evening.

Was in London on Trade Union Business on Tuesday 2nd July, and on the Sunday I traveled to London by 125 train from Edinburgh, 'dressed' by the first train, and that evening I went to the London TV/TS Group in Upper Street, and met Virginia Prince. I have some very good photograph of her, myself and Yvonne. Would you be interested in receiving copies?

With all best wishes from the girls in Scotland


RUBY A TODD.