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NEWSLETTER EDITORS
Helen
and
Wilma Thordsen

Hi Girls:

It was a beautiful night last night for our Xmas Party and which will be our last gathering here after thirty years. The girls all looked so nice, some had on gowns and some came in short dresses and skirts. Michelle Ann was dressed in Mrs Claus as she has a good time taking care of our grab bag.

The girls here were. Michelle Ann and Dennie from Somerville, Mas., Eileen and Pricilla from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Yvonne and Vickie from Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Karen from Saratoga, N.Y., Susan and Vonda from Hoosick Falls, N.Y., Danilla and Linda from Quechee, Vt., Pricilla and Betsy and Pam from Scotia, N.Y., Cindy and Carol from New York City, N.Y., Jeanette from New York City, N.Y., Renee from Stratford, Conn., Winnie from Schenectady, N.Y., Cheryl from Troy, N.Y., Frances from Rochester, N.Y., Elanda from Rome, N.Y., Joan from Colonie, N.Y., Jo Ann from Monroe, N.Y., Beverly from Rexford, N.Y., Jamie from Floral Park, N.Y., Kris and Mary from Mechanicville, N.Y. and Wilma and I.

Sorry that Alice and Dot didn't make it as Alice after going home early last month found herself in the hospital this month after she had every thing ready to come to the Xmas Party, we missed you both and do hope to see you at some time.

The meal for the girls was: Roast Beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, yellow beans, lima beans, baked spinach, golden glow jello salad, finger rolls butter, Xmas cake and coffee. We had a Punch which we had when every one was here.

Every one helped to serve and then clean up so we could go ahead with our Xmas grab bag. We had a great time as the girls picked from the table and some took from others like Elanda for instance she had to go to the table more than once as they kept taking her gifts, and Eileen too had to make several trips to the table as she too lost her gifts to others, but in the long run every thing turned out alright. Every one had a good time. Then came a big surprise for Wilma and I, Michelle Ann had handed me an envelope and told me to open it while Wilma was to open a big box. When I saw the T.V. the girls had given us in return for what we had done for them, I cried. When I finished opening the card there was money in it, and then Eileen and Pricilla gave me an envelope, I just didn't know what to say to think that the girls thought that much of Wilma and I. We were just to happy to be able to provide a place for the girls to come and spend time with us and the rest of the girls. Of course we realize that some of the girls who donated had not been here in person but were subscribers to the newsletter and some had been a member at one time, but for some reason had to drop out mostly personal reasons. To all these we sincerely send our thanks, you all are a great bunch and we will surely miss all of you. I was glad to have the opportunity to meet some of the wives and know that a few times here gave them a little better understanding of what their Husbands were going thru. We have met so many nice people not only T.V.' but friends as well, we do hope that if they feel they want to call us any time that they feel free to do so. We will always hold their friendship dear to us. For the few who thought that we were making money from the girls, you are so wrong as we never over charged and did not build up a big bank account so that we would benefit from it. Many of the parties there were not enough girls here to cover the food bill so we had to draw from the small bank account. We would never take advantage of the girls, as we knew how much they wanted to come but some time the finances were low so they had to skip one. They are working girl the same as we were, so we tried to do our best for them.

You know it will be strange when the third Sat. rolls around and we won't be going shopping for the gathering instead we can be thinking of Dennie as it will be her job from here on out. It will take time to adjust to the fact that we are now. retired. When you have the amount of girls come thru your door as we have had come in ours and you have no problems you know you have a good group of women. My many thanks to all of them for being so good, it made it that much easier for me to hold them as my dear friends.

Some time along our travels we are hoping to be able to see some of the girls and visit with them. I have until May to go and then I will be retiring from work and then we will make our plans as we go along. I am really looking forward to my retirement. I will be able to be a little lazy in the mornings knowing I don't have to get up at Five to go to work.

I am glad we have somebody like Michelle Ann and Dennie to carry on for the girls, as they were both a big help to us more than once, and I know that Michelle Ann has great deal of interest in transvestism and will certainly help more of them to come out of the closet and perhaps some of the girls in Boston

continued on page three

FEARS & REASONS

To attain contentment when an individual is a Transvestite (TV) is probably one of the prime obstacles or challenges facing a TV. The issues of homosexuality, social conformity, family loyalty and self-respect are a few that seem to get all jumbled up. The values one had as a child and observed values of parents are the tool that we have to use to build our decisions and commitments. These values are blended with the emotions that we experience that excite or impress. Sometimes it is an escape into work of pretend that seems so real that one may think he can do whatever he wants to do. Some can and some can't, some should and some shouldn't.

To those who are of the persuasion of free thought, believing one should do whatever he feels is right for him, I respect your opinion. However, I do not agree with you. As we move through life, we interact with others. Some are impressionable and some are fearful of change or that which they do not understand. I feel that consideration of others feelings and emotions, especially those close to you, are as admirable as free thought. Many of the fears about public exposure are, I agree, all in one's mind and that strangers under most situations will probably not notice or even care. However, self-respect and your own expectations of yourself and what others close to you may think of your actions may be of some importance to a TV. Just as a TV may look up to an acquaintance or relative who is a doctor or just a plain good person, so others will form an opinion of you.

A fear to me may not be a fear to you, a reason to me may be a copout to you, a copout to me may be a reason to you. Firm convictions are good in most situation, that's a fact. Also a fact is that misery likes company.

Enthusiasm is contagious and a TV who has a persuasive attitude may pull into the pathway of no return some who are uncertain about which course to choose.

Are you on a course that may drag you down to a lower level of self-respect, or are you raising yourself up? Where are you going? Are you going to be a man to be looked down upon by others, or a man with principle and a part-time woman, also with principle.

Remember that in reality, life is not a perpetual high, unless you are staying that way with the use of drugs. How hard we try to achieve the letter-perfect deception or impersonation! Public or private exposure, male or reassignment, hetro or homosexual? Indeed these are serious questions. Everyone sooner or later reaches his point of incompetency, as explained in the PETER PRINCIPLE. A man is an excellent worker, then is promoted to department head and does a lousy job. The man has reached his point of incompetency.

Some facts to remember in regards to "full-time woman" that are based upon personal interviews and research are that it would be impractical with few exceptions to continue the same lifestyle you did as a man. Theoretically, you should be able to, but based on the facts of those who have tried it, they leave behind a trail of broken homes and a loss of much that was attained to the point of the change. Sure, there are some for whom the dream has come true of an increase in status, but remember, many are called but few are chosen. Again the facts of those who have attained their dream, almost all are exceptionally well-educated or have amassed enough funds to make the change in style. For the rest, it is a meager existence of hand-to-mouth and 75-cent beers in places where one should usually travel in pairs.

In view of this, what can one do who has principle and still the desire? You might accept your fears as reasons which can logically be explained. This is a pretty good foundation for a decision with which we can live. Furthermore, if situations change, other decisions can be made to coincide at a latter time.

Whatever we do, we would want GOOD LUCK. And what is good luck? As a very worldly man, founder of a large corporation, who is now deceased, told me: GOOD LUCK IS WHEN OPPORTUNITY AND PREPAREDNESS MEET AT THE SAME TIME. A decision to wait until good luck is eminent for a pleasurable experience with minimum change of failure is still a decision. Consider, too, when you are sixty years old, as a woman, what can you do unless you have really prepared for that eventuality? Sit in a rest home and knit shawls? Or will you be able to live your life to the fullest?

What is important to you as a man should continue to be important to you as a part-time woman. Mannerisms, gestures, inflections and reflections may change, but not your integrity and not your values. If you are not a bar fly or a window shopper as a man, why be one as a woman? It seems logical that to function on familiar turf would be much easier and permit proper planning....

SECRETS TV's KEEP SECRET:

The TV who hates to take off her makeup when it's time to go to bed and makes a mess of the pillow case and sheets.

The TV who is sweet and considerate with his wife and constantly buys her clothes and jewelry, so that he can borrow them the first chance he gets...

The TV who goes to the office wearing nylons stockings under his socks. He is jumpy as a rabbit if some one should slap him on the thigh. Fears a friendly hand will hit the tell-tale metal tip of the garter.....

The TV who swears she feels in heaven with a too tight corselette or waist cincher and won't admit she's dying of discomfort....

PARTY DATES :

January 21stFebruary 18th.....March 17th.....

Please remember that all future parties will be held at the home of MR. and ~~MS~~ MRS M. BOLIS at 25 Cambria Street.....Sumerville.....Mass. 02143.

Please make your reservation four days in advance.

There phone number is 1 - 617 - 623 - 3884.

TO ALL MEMBERS :

First Helen and I wish you all A MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Over the 30 years as President of TVIC Helen & I have met personalt over ten thousand TVs & TSs . I must say they are the most wonderful people to meet.

We have made many many friends and we hope that they still will keep ih touch with us.

Over the years seven of the TSs have had the change over and to this date I have not heard of any dissatisfaction. Two have married and have a happy life. Two are in bussiness doing very well. The other three are employed and doing very well.

I do not know of what else to say but it has been a real pleasure to have known all you nice people.

To all the wives we hope that we have been of some help and brought a little more understanding and happiness in your family life.

God Bless You All

Our LOVE

HELEN & WILMW

Continued from page one

will be able to make some of the meetings. I know that Michelle Ann has already been working on getting in touch with some of the members who couldn't make it here to Albany. We will plan on making as many as we can providing the weather is good. Wilma does not like to drive at night now that he has passed the seventy mark plus, and I don't drive. So we hope to see some of the girls now and then.

It was good to see Jeanette after so long an absence, sorry we didn't see you Loraine, but maybe in our travels we will get that way.

I wish I had more time to spend with Mary and Linda who are fairly new to the group as the came just two months before we ended., I hope that in the short time you both knew us that we were of some help in having you get a better understanding of what being a T.V. is. I sure enjoyed having the pleasure of meeting you both.

Our good wishes go out to all the girls who we have met and haven't seen in some time.

Well this will be my last writing for the newsletter after thismonth it will be Dennie's views you will be reading. I am sure she will do well as Dennie and Michelle Ann are younger than we are and it will help in some way to bring you some of the advances that are being made today for the T.V.'s and their way of living. I know that they will keep up the good work that we have started and who knows they probably will improve it. You girls out there please give them all the help and support you can, you gave Wilma help when you sent her clippings when you came across them in your papers.

Once again our very warm and sincere thanks to all of you out there in this world of Transvestism and may God bless and keep you all in good healt and keep you happy in all you do. We will be with you all in spirit and I know that we will miss all the letters we had been receiving from all you girls, but thirty years soon takes it 's tolle and you have to make the bes of it. If we didn't have Michelle Ann and Dennie we probably would have had second thoughts or just said we would have to give it up for good. I know that in time you will find that these two people will carry on the job we started and they helped to support , they are one of you.

Well I'll say good night to all and thanks again for being so good to Wilma and I. We will cherish our gift from you for always.

My love to all of you. Have a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

Helen

STRAPLESS PROBLEMS

NEWS FROM CAROL TAYLORS UNDIE-WORLD

A couple of weeks ago I took an afternoon off to shop for some new summer dresses, tops, and skirts (still haven't broken down and bought a mini now that they're back, perhaps because I'd have to forsake garterbelt for pantyhose--or would I??) and it was very apparent that tube tops and other strapless designs as well as lovely silky dresses with thin or string style straps. I loved the dresses but I had this fear that they would require a strapless bra. No cheating this time with wide-set or X style straps, these styles were for a strapless bra only. Frankly, I have quite full 36A even 36B (with just a bit of shaping) breasts and I'm very lucky and happy to have them (and work constantly to enlarge and shape them) and I certainly have no problem shaping a decent bustline with conventional bras. In short I am blessed with a better than average TV bosom and I have always had trouble with strapless bras. I don't think I have purchased one (not counting strapless merry widows or basques) in at least six or seven years. And I buy a LOT of bras! So, next stop- Macy's bra dept. where I know my way around pretty well, and a liesurely inspection of what I consider to be a very complete collection of strapless bras. Obviously the bra makers were on top of a fashion phenomonon I had missed. No pun intended-really.. They were all in there: Bali, Maidenform, Warners, Vassarlette etc. And as I suspected, MOST started at 34B. I needen't explain that MOST of us are A or AA-what to do? Simple, you say, buy a B cup and stuff it full of panties or stockings or cotton or something. No doubt, that is one alternative, and I know many TVs stuff their bras every day. But what about we purests that have worked hard to develop some semblance of a bust and don't want to stuff their cups? Frankly I HATE the idea of anything in the bra cup other than me (with the happy exception of a lovers hand). I'M not saying there should not be padded bras in everyones wardrobe, I am saying that I don't like to add anything else. The very first bra I ever bought for myself was a strapless. I learned a lot from that experience. I was a comfortable (almost) 32B in those days (1961) and I noticed that the cups of strapless bras were usually shaped quite rigidly and in so doing were actually padded notiveably. Surely a 32B would do fine...WRONG! No way could I fill the cups. I had these two air filled, easily "dented" protrusiond on my chest that bore scant resemblance to my own breasts, of which I was so proud. Underwired and snug, I tugged and pulled with little luck. Oh I had my nice little breasts in the cups, but strapless cups just cannot provide the firm forming that the small breasted girl requires. What to do??? First, it is necessary to always drop one cup size and of course this carries its own sets of problems for the vast majority of us "A" girls. Did you know cup sizes change with bra size? A 36A for example is an almost identical cup to a 34B. The 34B is just slightly (in most cases) larger. My wardrobe has many 34B bras, some of which are a bit too tight so I use a bra expander (note no "front hookers" for this practice), even though my normal size is 36A. I'm always amazed at how big a secret this seems to be. So if you're a 34B wear a 34A, if you're a 36A, go to a 34A and use an expander if you're uncomfortable. Rule #2, wear a strapless bra tight. And pull all you can into the cups, without straps the band and underwire must do all the work. Always wear an underwired and fiberfill padded and shaped cup. Stay away from the "tube bras" and the unshaped cups. Even at a lower cup size you will need all the help you can get. There are plenty on the market but my favorite is the BALI #2200 (Bali-Lo Seamless Strapless). It's readily available wherever Bali bras are sold, has quite sturdy (important) under and side wiring, the band is padded and wide enough to permit both snugness and comfort, and although relatively plain, at the top of the cups is a $\frac{1}{2}$ " band of lace that adds visible femininity to the garment. You notice I've only discussed the strapless bandeau, not the longline, brasallett or basque or merry widow or corselet. Any of these are an exceptable alternative although quite frankly, I usually save mine for those very special (and very sexy) feminine moments when the garment will not be hidden by more than a negligee and can be appreciated and enjoyed. If all this is too much trouble, don't wear slothing that needs a strapless bra. But since there are so many nice things out there, maybe this has helped. Hope so. See you soon.

Love,

Carol

Carol

THE END END OF AN ERA:

The announcement that Wilma and Helen were finally going to grt some well deserved rest comes not to a shock but one of relief. They are in good health and I wish them many more years of happiness together. They have served uswell.

I wonder howmany pounding hearst, trembling hands and shaky knees have entered 1104 Broadway and have left it cool, calm and collected. It was that way with me in Jan. 1978 when I first entered their home. In thirty years our numbers must be legion.

As for Michelle and Denny, I wonder if they ever thought in 1976 that they would begin an apprenticeship that in 1984 would see them as the torch bearers for the TVIC. I know them both and they are indeed two wonderful people.

To have been accepted as a friend by them is something to be proud of, to have them as friends is a joy forever. I am a better person for knowing them and my wife got a bit stouter eating Helens mashed potatoes.

So, dear friends and gentle people, I wish you the happiness you deserve and have earned. Peace be with you. LOVE DEE DEE CONN.

Dear Wilma:

If Helen is or isn't peeking over your shoulder, please tell her that it wasn't her fault that I never got to one of the meetings. Every month I read the menu served and sit here over a balony sandwich and drool. Then when she relates who was there and all the fun that was had, I sit here and pout cause I didn't make it. No it is not Helen's fault nor your either. If anyone was to blame it was JOYCE DOLAN because she did not hit me over the head and drag me to that meeting over a year ago. She had me half convinced to go with her but she gave up too soon. RESULT? She went but I didn't.

One morning I was sitting here trying to finish a letter to one of my sisters when I reached for a cigarette. The pack was empty so I decided to make a dash to the nearby store for more. I hated the thought of resurecting ROBERT just to go out for butts as I was dressed in a turtleneck, jersey slacks and flats I figured that was unisex enough for a quick dash to the store. So off came the wig and on went one of ROBERT'S jackets and to the store we went. As I put my hand on the door handle of the store I realized that I hadn't taken off my ear rings. WOW was that close. I ordered my butts and stuck my hand in the jacket pocket for some change and saw that the jacket was wide open exposing my nice 36D bustline. I hastily paid and left almost forgetting the butts. At first I was sorry I hadn't let old ROBERT go but by the time I got home the spice of the event was causing a warm glow within. The preceeding incident may well be the turning point in FRAN'S social life. I am so tired of standing in the doorway of the closet reading accounts of other girls at TVIC meetings etc. I have been fired up before but nothing like now.

I do want to say that your DO'S AND DON'T'S FOR TV'S was greatly appreciated. It brought up a point that I have wondered about for some time. How about working from the national level to establish a TV ID CARD. There could be a set of rules made through a convention of all the major TV/TS groups. There could be a trial period of several months and the probability of having to belong to more than one organization. Also a penalty of loss of the card. There could even be a decent fee to cover initial investigation and a registration fee if the card was only good for a defined period. The publicity sisters at the various levels could pester the law makers in hopes of getting some recognition of our hopes for rights, I for one would love to have a card with my male as well as my female images on it. I know that I wouldn't venture out unless real presentable so as not to offend anyone. In reality, I think it would keep a card holder on her toes...FRAN VOSE...BEDFORD...N.H.....

Dear Wilma & Helen:

I do wish you both an enjoyablr and a very long retirement together. I'm sorry that I never got to attend one of your parties but I still feel that we have a very close relationship. I do hope that one day soon we have the chance to meet in person.

Thank you for giving so much of your selves to us who really needed it. You gave us all the knowledge and desire to be the person we wish to be. LOVE
FRAN B.....THIELLSN.Y.

Dear Wilma:

I wish you well on your retirement. Hope this doesn't mean we won't see WILMA'S VIEWS anymore.

Although I never was able to get to one of your monthly meetings and meet you and Helen personally. I want you to know that through your Journal and the couple of times we talked by phone that you helped me change my feelings in a very positive way about myself. For that I am forever gratefull.

Mike sure has a tough job ahead trying to carry on where you are leaving off. Hopefully we will still hear from you periodically.

ROBERT R.....BALDWINVILLE.....N.Y.

Dear Wilma:

I'm sorry to hear that you are stepping down as president of TVIC. I am happy though, because you are in good health and I'm sure you can use the time you will be gaining to enjoy yourself. Although I was never able to make any of the parties, the newsletter has always been something I have looked forward to. WILMA'S VIEWS have always been one of the first things I read and enjoy. I also really enjoy reading the letters from other members. Thanks to the newsletter and TVIC I have been able to become more comfortable with myself. Thank you so much for all the love and time you have given to TV'S through TVIC and I wish you and Helen the best. Enjoy your retirement and the merriest of Christmases. LOVE PAULA R....SCHENECTADY...N.Y.....

Dear Wilma:

I would like to congradulate you on reaching your 12th year of publication of THE TVIC JOURNAL and to express sincere appreciation of the help and understanding that you have given all the GIRLS. You have done a wonderful job and I hope that MICHELLE ANN will continue to carry the ball.

R.D. DUNFIELD...POB 406 PT. CREDIT POSTAL STA...MESSESSAUGO...ONT...CANADA...

Dear Wilma: I was very sorry to hear you are stepping down from your position as Pres. & Editor of TVIC. I hope MR.BOLIS, will follow in your footsteps in keeping TVIC one of the top publications in its field. CAROL AVERY..NY.NY.

Dear Wilma:

I am sorry that you are not going to be in charge of TVIC after the first of the year. I never did get up to Albany to meet you and Helen in person. You are a great person and have done a great many things for the crossdresser. I wish you all the luck in the world on your retirement and that you can do all the things that you wish to do.

I hope that someday we will get the chance to meet, until then God bless you and Helen. LOVE JANICE H...MEDWAY...MASS.....

Dear Wilma:

Sorry to hear of your retering from TVIC. You and Helen have done a fine job and a real service to many people. I only got to one of your meetings but I throughly enjoyed myself. The TVIC people are great - no two ways about it. Maybe the Somerville location will enable us to meet once again. I enjoy the JOURNAL very much the way it is. In addition of being interesting it is always out on schedule...PATRICIA [REDACTED]

Dear Wilma & Helen:

Undoubtably, you'll get many letters and comments regarding your decision to turn the club reins and location over to MICHELL ANN and DENNY. We're sure they will do a good job and follow in your footsteps. You have both done a fanstastic job over and over again and are to be congratulated over and over again. We deeply appreciate all you have done and for helping us personally meet others this area of the U.S...ALICE & CONNIE [REDACTED]..GULF BREEZE, FLA.

Dear Wilma:

I saw again something which upsets me with much of the TV scene. I was in a small wig shop in Chicago which is run by a very kind lady who is openly sympathetic to cross dressers. She does everything within reason to afford them privacy at her establishment, and for her work, which is highly professional, she charges a very modest price. While I'm there some TV calls on the phone. He wants to come to her shop, then and now, but he dosen't want anyone else to be there! He insists on absolute privacy even if it means locking the ~~xxx~~ door and pulling down the shades, despite the fact that most of the customers are involved with TVism and that private try-on rooms are available.

This call got me off on the subject of the preposterous demands that so many TVs make on those who are willing to help them. In my contacts with various groups and individuls who have become involved with serving the needs of crossdressers, I have heard and seen the same stories repeated endlessly: demands forextracordinary services, coupled with the expectations that because they are TV's they should get cut rate prices; special appointments arranged and then broken without explanation; goods stolen during try-on sessions(which incidentally, results more often than not in no purchase being made); goods borrowed and not returned; and promises made and then broken. In short mis-erliness, treachery, and paranoia seems to characterize the way many TVs are seen by those who deal with them.

Not all TVs are like this, of course, and there are reasons such as guilt and worthlessness which cause so many bad relations among us. The point to be made here, though, is that those of us who have begun to enjoy the freedom associated with this new age of tolerance, and those of us who have found success in candide honest dealings with those business people willing to help us, we are now beginning to fear that these contacts are increasingly threatened by the irresponsible and insensitive action of many TVs, I have heard of two places that have with drawn from doing business with ~~xxxx~~ the crossdeessing crowd because of the way they were treated by TVs. The grumblings of those who stay with it are becoming more bitter each day.

If TVs wish to ever liberate themselves from the scorn and redicule that society heaps on them, and if they ever wish to make any of the legal gains that the gays have won, then we must all be careful not to abuse those few who are willing to be on our side today in a simple personal and bussiness transaction... MARGE S.... FLINT...MICH....

Dear Wilma:

How can I tell if the Feme Garments I buy fit me right. JANICE K, KENT, OHIO
Dear Janice; Here are some "fitting points " to remember.

- (1) Collar or neckline should fit comfortably without gaping.
- (2) Sholder seems of set-in sleeves should hit the tip of your shoulder bone.
- (3) Sleeveless garments should fit neatly around arms and shoulders.
- (4) Armholes should be comfortable, not tight.
- (5) Full-lenht sleeves should fit ptoerly neither too long or too short.
- (6) Bodice darts should be at the fullest part of the bustline.
- (7) Waist(if it is a natural waist line) should hit your natural waist.
- (8) Side seams of a skirt should be prependericular to the floor.
- (9) In a slim skirt, darts should end at the fullest part of your hips.
- (10) Garments should let you move freely. Walk, bend, reach, and sit .

Dear Wilma: I was very sorry to hear you are stepping down from your position in your footsteps in... I hope MR. BOLLS will fol in your footsteps in... CAROL AVERY NY. NY.

Boy Who Dropped a Bombshell on His Parents:

'I'm No Longer the Son You Knew'

What do you do when your son drops this bombshell: "I'm having surgery to become a woman"?

When Bob Cossey's son decided to switch sexes, Cossey exploded. "Stop this nonsense!" he yelled. "Get a suit on and pull yourself together!"

But Barry Cossey went on with his plans to be surgically made into a woman — and became a gorgeous top British model, one of the beauties who surrounded James Bond in his movie "For Your Eyes Only."

"Things like that happened in other people's families — never in ours," said Doreen Cossey, remembering how stunned she was when her son Barry claimed he was actually a woman trapped inside the body of a man!

Barry had always been considered a sissy. His big brother Terry tried to toughen him up by playing football or boxing with him in the yard.

"I resented him because I couldn't fit into that way of life," the model recalls today.

But my sister Pam and I did everything together — girlish things. She'd share her dolls with me, or we'd borrow Mom's high heels and dress up."

As Barry grew older, he found himself attracted not to girls — but to heterosexual men. "And I only felt happy and comfortable dressed in feminine clothes."

Finally, as a teen, he left his hometown, Brooke, in southeastern England for London where a doctor began the sex-change procedure on him.

Changing his name to Tula, Barry dressed in women's clothes — and looked absolutely stunning.

His brother Terry broke the news to their parents. They were devastated. And that's when an angry Bob Cossey telephoned his son — and ordered the lad to



HAPPY MOMENT shared by Tula and her mom, who's completely adjusted to her son's sex change.

straighten out. And a short while later, when the sex change was almost complete, Tula returned home to confront her parents. It was an evening they will never forget.

"I saw this beautiful, feminine girl," recalled Bob. "She said, 'Dad, look at me. I didn't want to be like this. But it's how I am.'"

"I was completely stunned for a few moments. It was an incredible shock suddenly seeing this strange woman — yet almost someone I knew — standing before me. The Barry I had bounced on my knee as a boy, whose grazes and bruises, I had treated, whom I had cheered on at school sports days, was gone forever.

"It wasn't fair. I had wanted a boy — and now he had been taken away from me. I could not help wondering what my child looked like now under the woman's clothing. Could my son really have become female? My boy, a new daughter. It was a horrible situation."

Said Doreen, "He looked attractive enough as a woman — but not like Barry. I felt like screaming, 'Give me back my son — whoever you are. Just give him back!'"

"I felt unutterably sad. In a way it was almost as though Barry had died.

"I felt the tears in my eyes. My son was dead and some-



Barry as a boy

how this person — another daughter I suppose — had been born in his place."

Recalled Bob, "I didn't want to accept it — but I had to. What could I do? You don't reject your children. You just love them and help them all you can."

From that day, both Tula's parents were behind her all the way. "Oddly, the most difficult thing was remembering not to call her 'Barry,'" said Doreen.

"You'd see the hurt look on her face when we slipped up."

For three years Tula kept her secret, rising to become a top model and even appear in the Bond movie. And then, the story got out as a London newspaper printed her shocking past. But Tula survived the scandal. And her family and neighbors rallied to support her.

"It's strange," says Doreen. "I can't think of Tula having once been a boy. I think of a son I once had, and the daughter I have now — who helps me with my make-up and tells me about her boyfriends."

Said Bob, "She's always had guts, our Tula. She's always weathered the storms. It's wonderful to see her now, so beautiful, so confident, so happy and so loving.

"A daughter to be proud of!"

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INCREDIBLE: Barry's now a gorgeous model.

Taxpayers To Pay \$25,000 For Sex-Change Operation?

MADISON, Wis. (UPI) — Once, he wanted to join the Marines and be one of a few proud men. Now, he wants to be a woman, at taxpayers' expense.

If a lawsuit filed by the city fails, the 33-year-old welfare recipient will get his wish. City taxpayers will get the bill, which could total \$25,000.

Taxpayers have complained loudly since the Welfare Appeals Committee voted 2-1 in closed session to fund an operation for the man identified only as "Theresa."

Last week, Mayor Joel Skornicka and the city council rushed to court with a lawsuit to block the panel's action.

The panel cited compelling medical reasons for funding the man's sex-change operation. The city contends the law prohibits using public funds for such an operation.

The case has been set before Circuit Judge William Eich, who faces a dilemma. If he denies the surgery, the man could carry out his threat to commit suicide. If he approves the surgery, the taxpayers could revolt.

The case is confidential, protected under state privacy law. The man's name was disclosed when the dissenting committee member quit in protest (someone later disclosed his name in a bogus release to the local news media, and authorities are looking for that individual.)

Though his case is confidential, his story has been told in interviews with the city's two newspapers.

The man said he grew up in a small town in a neighboring state. He tried to join the Marines, but flunked a physical. The Army drafted but later discharged him. After his marriage ended in divorce, he decided to become a woman. He moved to Madison in 1979.

"My life as a male was like living in disguise," he told the Capital Times. "It's like Halloween every day, except it was without a costume."

He said he was on welfare because he developed blood clots from taking estrogen. He said he was told to stop taking the hormone treatments. He did, and his male traits began to reappear.

Fired worker sues GM, claims sex-change bias

DETROIT (UPI) — A former General Motors worker who underwent a sex change operation two years ago has filed suit charging that the No. 1 automaker did not treat her the same after the surgery.

Justina Williams, 30, filed suit Monday in Wayne County Circuit Court claiming that her GM supervisors repeatedly harassed her after the operation and fired her in October.

The suit said the discharge was illegal and violated state sex discrimination laws. It asks for back pay and benefits, plus money to compensate her for alleged mental distress resulting from the incident.

by Irving Wallace, David Wallechinsky and Amy Walla

Herald Journal 3-14-82



Hijras ("sexless ones") in Panipat, India, for three-week eunuch convention

A Eunuch Situation

Eunuchs (castrated males) still exist in the world, although they no longer serve as harem attendants. It is estimated that today there are about 3500 hijras, or eunuchs, in Bombay, India. As recently as 10 years ago in Afghanistan, castrated boys sometimes were traded for horses and cattle to serve as sexual slaves. And in the 1950s, in Scandinavia, 250 males were castrated—mostly for criminal acts, but some merely for being "troublesome." The Nazis sexually butchered scores of "undesirable" men, including homosexuals and the retarded.

Indian and Pakistani hijras are initiated at a young age and become eu-

nuchs during an 11-day ritual. On each of the first 10 days, a priest asks the initiate, "Do you want to become a eunuch?" to which the boy answers "yes." At dawn on the last day, the boy is held by four eunuchs, drenched with cold water and mildly anesthetized, then suffers the excision of his genitals. Some die. Hijras wear women's clothes and display feminine mannerisms. They work as prostitutes and entertainers celebrating births and marriages for money. When hijras die, they are escorted upright to the graveyard in the middle of the night, to keep the death as private as the life had been in the hijra community.

Transsexual pilot sues to regain job

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Eastern Airlines wants to "banish" a pilot who underwent a sex-change operation even though she is physically and mentally fit and a "solid candidate" for flying, her attorney said Monday.

Dean Dickie, attorney for Karen Frances Ulane, argued in federal court that his client had an "outstanding" 12-year record as a pilot with Eastern before her dismissal in 1981.

Ulane, 41, is suing Eastern Airlines for sex discrimination. She is seeking reinstatement to her \$60,000-a-year post as well as back pay and benefits. Dickie's arguments came in the first day of a trial before U.S. District Judge John Grady.

Ulane — formerly Kenneth Ulane, an Army Air Force pilot who flew more than 100 combat missions in Vietnam and won the Air Medal of Honor — had the sex-change operation in 1980.

Eastern fired her in 1981, citing safety and medical concerns.

In opening arguments in the bench trial, Dickie contended the case — believed to be the first of its kind in aviation history — is a matter of discrimination, rather than his client's performance.

"Eastern wants you to think Karen Ulane is unfit to fly because she believed she was a woman even though she had the body of a man," Dickie said.

But he said the operation, "in no way affects her ability to fly an airplane."

Dickie noted Ulane has been examined by psychiatrists who have said they would fly with her.

Ulane was re-certified by the FAA after surgery, Dickie said, adding that she is as "solid a candidate" to fly today as when the agency gave its approval.

However, Dick Brown, an attorney representing Eastern, contended the concern of the airlines and other pilots was not sexual preference but safety.

He argued Ulane's surgery posed a safety concern because it was the last in a series of attempts by her "to solve a very serious psychiatric condition."

Those who have this "disorder," Brown said, "suffer extreme depression (and) anxiety." He said Ulane, while undergoing preparation for surgery, told other pilots that her "emotional trauma was so great, she had contemplated suicide."

Brown said after surgery, Ulane was offered various alternatives at Eastern, including a non-flying post and early retirement benefits amounting to \$30,000 annually for the rest of her life.

He said there are no long-range medical studies determining how effective the surgery is and said Eastern cannot be placed in the position of experimenting when passenger safety is at stake.