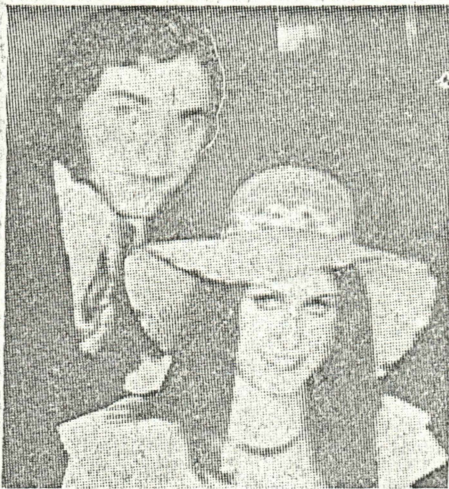


SEX-CHANGE BRIDE HITS AT GOSSIPS



WEDDING DAY . . . David and Debbie

LEGGY redhead Debbie Botterill, who was a man until five years ago, hit out yesterday at claims that she helped cause her ex-husband's death.

Jobless David Botterill died in a fume-filled garage two years after his illegal marriage to sex-change Debbie, 30, broke up.

His mother Rene told an inquest that her 28-year-old son had been depressed since he discovered soon after the wedding that his bride had been born a man.

But Debbie declared: "He knew within two weeks of our meeting that I was awaiting a sex-change operation.

"When I went into hospital to have it, he visited me every day, so how can his mother say he didn't know?"

Debbie also talked of her amazing appetite for love, and said men were mesmerised by her 36-24-36 figure and blue eyes.

"Now I have become a real woman, my drive is incredible," she said. "I'm making up for lost time."

AFFAIR

At her mother's home in Thurnham Road, Preston, Debbie said that as a teenage boy, she made love to girls—but already wanted to be a woman.

At the age of 18, she stopped pretending, grew her hair, and started dating men. Said Debbie:

"I met David when I was living with his best friend John. It was love at first sight.

Within a fortnight, we were having an affair.

I used to allow him to fondle me, but said I couldn't make love because of a defect I was born with.

Then one night I just blurted the whole truth out.

David just said he loved me even more, and it didn't matter.

He said he couldn't wait until I had the operation and he could make love to me properly.

Debbie had the sex change in North Manchester General Hospital in 1977, and she and David married a fortnight later—even though they knew it was against the law.

"I'll never forget the first time we made love," said Debbie. "We both felt so fulfilled."

But later, David attempted suicide by drinking anti-freeze after he and Debbie had a four-in-the-bed orgy with John

By DAVID JONES

and another friend. "I nursed him back to health," said Debbie. But months later, they split up.

"I was anxious to go with an outsider," Debbie added. "My already high sex drive had taken off."

"I picked up a 19-year-old boy and we made love three times.

David did get depressed. Then he met another woman, but she was already married. I believe that was the final straw. He really loved her."

Now Debbie has a flat in London, and claims to have romped with Arab oil tycoons, millionaires and pop stars.

"None knew I had been a man," she said.

"The sex op has turned me into a nymphomaniac. But I hope people believe I only want to be a normal woman.

"I am looking for the right man. If David were here now, who knows, we might have got back together."

At the Preston inquest last month, coroner Howard McCann said there was "some evidence to suggest" David killed himself. He recorded an open verdict.