



TRANSSEXUAL BRIDE Katherine Anne Bies steps out of a car to walk to the ceremony where she becomes Mrs. Robert Lonnie Barnes. The wedding at the California Medical Facility was the first involving a CMF inmate and a transsexual. The groom is due for a parole hearing in October.—DR Photo by Owens

Couple Married At CMF

By ROSA KWONG
DR Reporter

VACAVILLE— Katherine Anne Marlowe Bies, looking radiant in an ivory lace wedding gown, stepped from the powder blue Lincoln Continental into a crowd of cameramen and curious on-lookers.

She was 35 minutes late. "I am never late for anything except two things, weddings and funerals," she told reporters.

Bies married Robert Lonnie Barnes in a ceremony at the California Medical Facility (CMF) today.

Barnes is a prisoner at CMF, serving

time for robbery and murder. Bies is a transsexual, the first ever to marry an inmate at the facility.

Richard Nelson of Nelson's Hair Care in San Francisco, Bies' former employer, gave the bride away. Jeannie VanZandt was the bride's maid.

Fellow inmates accompanied Barnes to the altar of the prison chapel, where the ceremony was performed by Chaplain Archie Allen.

As the bride's entourage exited from the Continental, they scurried between the car and the prison gate, carrying food for the reception. There was a huge cake, made by the bride's Chinese friends in

San Francisco and inscribed—in Chinese—with the bride's and groom's names.

"Everything is wrong," Kate Bies moaned. "Would you believe the florist forgot my bouquet? My hair is a mess," she added excitedly.

Born Kenneth Bies, Kate underwent surgery at Stanford Medical Center in 1973 to become a female.

Her husband pushed for the wedding today, though he gets a parole hearing in October.

"He's afraid I might run away," Kate joked.