

San Francisco, CA
(San Francisco Co.)
Examiner
(Cir. D. 150,698)

MAR 16 1978
Transsey

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

*file:
Transsey*

She's a woman — conjugal visits OK

1304
VACAVILLE (AP) — Conjugal visits may resume between prison inmate Robert Barnes and his transsexual wife, Kate, officials of the California Medical Facility said after insisting she undergo a physical examination.

"Her operation was a success and we'll accept it," said Dr. William Welch of the CMF staff yesterday, who performed the examination. The pronouncement will allow the couple to spend two or three days together in April at the prison.

Conjugal visits between them had been cut off last month after published reports that Barnes had not completed the last of her sex-change operations and still had male genitals.

"We prison administrators just don't want to be caught in the middle. We wanted to ensure we weren't allowing conjugal visits for homosexuals," said R. E. Coyle, Barnes' unit program administrator.

Barnes, 30, is serving time at the psychiatric prison for a 10-year-old murder and robbery. They were married at the prison last June 29, the first transsexual marriage at a California prison.

The transsexual was born Ken-

neth Bies, is 50 years old and the author of "Mr. Madame," a book about his experiences as a hairdresser for Hollywood stars. She is now a hairdresser on Union Street in San Francisco.

At the time of the wedding, documentation was presented to prison officials indicating she had undergone a series of sex change operations at Stanford Medical Center in 1974.

Prison officials said yesterday that the next time an inmate wants to wed a transsexual, a complete physical examination of the woman will be done before the marriage is performed.

Mrs. Barnes, a buxom blonde, walked into the prison examining room Wednesday dressed in a low-cut black evening gown edged in black lace.

"How do you measure masculinity or femininity?," she said before the exam. "Napoleon was a short man yet he was a powerful man. I have a woman friend who had cancer and both breasts removed, yet still is a woman. It's more important how you act as a person rather than as a man or woman."

When the prison doctor pronounced her a woman, she beamed and headed off to the prison lawn for a picnic with her husband.

*Barbara
Here sex
reassignment
surgery was not done
here. Several cosmetic
operations were.
Manti*

MAR 29 1978