

43 1304

# Once a Sad Man, Now a Happy Bride

By CHRIS WEINSTEIN  
Family Interest Editor

Katherine Ann Marlowe Bies, in an ecru-colored gown trimmed with lace, and Robert "Lonnie" Barnes exchanged wedding vows during a morning ceremony Wednesday morning in the California Medical Facility.

"It was a very traditional ceremony," said the Rev. Archie Allan, the officiating clergyman.

The 50-year-old bride of San Francisco began to sob as the Rev. Allan led her through the vows "to love, comfort, honor and keep him from this day forward."

Soon what was believed to be the first transsexual wedding ceremony in the California Department of Corrections was history,

Kate Marlowe, who was born Kenneth Bies in Des Moines, Iowa, had legally become Mrs. Robert Barnes — wife of the inmate serving time for a 10-year-old conviction of robbery and murder in Los Angeles County.

Inmates have a legal right to get married, CMF Supt. T.L. Clanon told The Reporter. In the case of a transsexual marriage, as long as the prospective bride has actually undergone surgery and completed the proper paperwork for a marriage license, the wedding will be approved, Clanon reported prior to the wedding.

Kate told The Reporter in a deep husky voice that she underwent a series of three operations during a five-month span in a \$10,000-sex change operation at the Stanford Medical Center. The operations — classified as cosmetic — included one on her face, one on her breasts and one... "well, you know where," she said.

She came to the decision to undergo surgery after going to Stanford — the Gender Dysphoria Program — for counseling for an identification problem that had plagued her as a man for most of his life.

"I was a woman trapped in a man's body," she said.

In late adolescence Kenneth became a female impersonator, then for 15 years successfully got by as a "straight" strip teaser, known as Sherrie Marlow. "I learned to fan dance from famed-stripper Sally Rand," the bride related.

The Army drafted Kenneth Bies. When it became apparent that Sherrie Marlowe wasn't just an act, Kenneth was discharged.

"To my parents I was born a boy and they can't accept anything differently," she said noting, that she and her family have disassociated themselves from each other.

"The best thing Lonnie gave me was a family," Kate said, looking over at Lonnie's three sisters who were bridesmaids in Wednesday's wedding.



PICNIC RECEPTION — Newlyweds Mrs. and Mr. Bies...

of his life.

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Kate said that she was branded as a "sissy" early in life.

By the time she was five years old, she said she knew she was "different." By age 10 "Kenneth" was knitting and embroidering.



**THROWING THE BOUQUET** — The new bride Kate Barnes took pleasure in throwing her bouquet into the crowd of unwed women.

Lonnie's sisters — Cheryl Moore, Wanda Clabouth and Linda Dunn, all of Sacramento — brought some of their young children to the wedding with apparently no reservations.

"They used to call me 'Aunt Kate' at San Quentin. Now I'm really Aunt Kate," Kate said proudly.

"I judged people by their personalities and Kate seems real nice," Mrs. Moore said.

"Lonnie can live with who he wants as long as he's happy." Mrs. Clabouth said, noting that "they can come visit my house whenever they want."

"This is the first time I've met Kate, but she seems like a very nice lady to me," Mrs. Dunn told The Reporter.

Kate added that she gets along well with her mother-in-law.

After being discharged from the Army Kenneth settled in California as a Hollywood hairdresser. His clientel as a male hairdresser included Gypsy Rose Lee, Hedda Hopper and model Susie Parker.

During this period, Kenneth also worked as San Francisco hair stylist "Mr. Kenneth." Later he wrote his first book, "Mr. Madam," which turned out to be a best-seller.

Kate told The Reporter that as Kenneth, she became associated with the homosexual community, but never considered herself a homosexual.

"I was associated with the homosexual community because there was no where else for me to go," she said.

Lonnie entered Kate's life, when he happened to be a class member in a behavioral science class conducted at San Quentin and sponsored by the College of Marin in 1975.

Nathan Ely, best man at Wednesday's wedding, introduced Lonnie to the guest lecturer Kate who was discussing "Rites of Passage to Transsexualism."

Lonnie told The Reporter that prior to that time he was not associated in any way to either a homosexual or transsexual community.

Nor did the introduction, when Lonnie was somewhat startled by Kate's deep voice, produce instant romance.

Only through a correspondence did the newlyweds come to realize an attraction for one another, they both agreed.

"We understand one another's needs," Kate said.

About four months ago Lonnie began thinking of marriage and proposing, he said.

Neither Lonnie nor Kate can see any reason why they can't enjoy a complete relationship as

**PICNIC RECEPTION** — Newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. Robert Barnes enjoyed a picnic reception after

their wedding Wednesday at the California Medical Facility. (Reporter Photos by Chris Weinstein)

any heterosexual couple would.

"Of course, prison can definately hamper your love life," Lonnie said. "But I was never one to shy away from what I decided to to."

Now that Lonnie and Kate are married, Lonnie's case manager Tom Gross confirmed that they are eligible for overnight conjugal visits.

"It's just a matter of scheduling now," Gross said.

Lonnie said that often people mis-associate transsexuals with either homosexuals or transvestites. There's no connection, he said.

"I'm more comfortable with myself now than I've ever been," Kate said shortly after the wedding. "He makes me feel feminine."

"Now I have to start dealing with that four letter word all wives have to deal with. That is w-a-i-t for him to come home." Lonnie's parole hearing is set for October.

Kate doesn't plan to wait quietly.

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**CAKE FOR THE BRIDE** — The new groom, inmate Robert "Lonnie" Barnes fed his transsexual bride Kate Marlowe

some wedding cake at the outdoor reception Wednesday.

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JUL 9 1973

*Transsex*

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

Transsexual Wedding at CMF...

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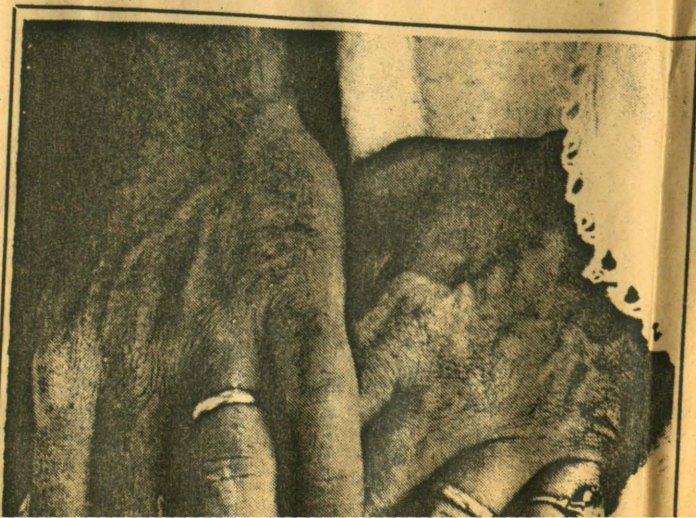
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## Vaca Valley Sunday

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