



ROBERT, KATHERINE BARNES . . . after vows

—UPI photo

Transsexual, 50, weds murderer, 29, in prison

VACAVILLE (UPI) — Wearing an ivory lace wedding gown, Katherine Bies, 50, a transsexual, married Robert Lonnie Barnes, 29, a convict serving a murder term, at Vacaville Prison.

Inmate friends of Barnes attended the wedding, conducted in the prison chapel by Chaplain Archie Allen after the warden got confirmation the bride is definitely a woman.

The inmates accompanied Barnes to the altar and carried food to the reception.

The bride, a San Francisco cocktail waitress who formerly was a gay stripper, female impersonator and hair stylist, was half an hour

late for the wedding and said excitedly on arrival:

"Would you believe the florist forgot the bouquet? And my hair is a mess."

Born Kenneth Biesn Des Moines, Iowa, the new Mrs. Barnes underwent sex-change surgery at Stanford University Medical Center in 1973.

She said her convict mate insisted on the wedding Wednesday, although he has a parole hearing scheduled for October.

"He's afraid I might run away," she said.

The bride was given away by Richard Nelson, her former employer at a hairstyling salon in San Francisco.

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