

Secret of the bride in white: she's the father of two sons

By RAY CHAPMAN

THE Rev Peter Ronayne is shocked to find that the good-looking couple he married one sunny Saturday are both men.

The "bride" in white turns out to be a divorced father of two boys.

Hungarian-born Sandor Virag called himself Anita when he illegally married at St Leonard's Church, Hackney, London.

And the Church of England say they have never known anything like it before.

Now the 44-year-old factory worker who dresses as a woman is living as the "wife" of Peter Borucki, 28, in a council flat.

FALSE

Sandor told me: "I know we might get into trouble, but we only did it for love. Some people might find that strange but it's true.

"We didn't tell the vicar the full facts. We just said we were living together and wanted a white wedding.

"He asked for our birth certificates, but as I couldn't produce mine as a woman I said I'd lost it escaping from Hungary.

"Then Peter and I went to a solicitor and swore a false declaration stating I was born Anita Verig Sandor in 1940.

"We set a date and had the banns read for three weeks.

"I can't begin to tell you how I felt that morning as I dressed in my white bridal gown. It was like all my Christmases rolled into one.

"We had fifty guests and then a reception back at our flat which the vicar attended. That was the most wonderful day of my life and I will cherish the memory always."

ADOPTED

The odd couple live in a two-bedroomed flat in Britannia Row, Essex Road, Islington, London.

Sandor came to Britain a few months after the Hungarian uprising in 1956. He said:

"I was just 22 and that was the first time I had ever dressed as a man. Until then my parents who adopted me when I was three months old had brought me up as a girl.

I was a boy but they had really longed for a girl and all the time I was with them they treated me as one.

They dressed me as a girl even when I went to school. All my friends thought of me as one and I was always doing the cooking, washing and ironing.

I was 15 when I found my birth certificate and discovered I was really a male.

But when I asked my parents about it they told me to shut up and not

ask any more questions.

Then I left school and went to work in a factory as a female—and had my first love affair.

He was the boy next door. I told him I was different from other girls, but he said he didn't mind.

He said he had a proper girlfriend and now he could have the best of both worlds.

He made love to me once a week for a year. Lots of other boys asked me out but I was too scared of them discovering my secret.

I kept working at the

factory and minded my own business until the uprising began and the fighting started.

I was frightened of being raped by the Russian soldiers, so I cut my hair short and put on some of my father's clothes.

Sandor was shot in the knee by soldiers during his flight to the West and spent two months in hospital before eventually arriving in Britain—as a man.

He met a French girl called Marie at a dance hall and took her to his home after she missed the train.

He said: "It was the first time I made love to a woman. She wasn't a virgin but I was."

They married in 1959, but separated four years later and their marriage ended in divorce in February 1967. His wife was given custody of their two sons.

DRESSING

A few months after the break-up, Sandor began dressing as a woman, changed his name to Anita Rider and applied for a sex-change operation.

He got a job as an usherette at a cinema and it was there that he met 17-year-old Peter Borucki.

Sandor said: "One night I let him take me home, and after that we started to go out regularly.

"Peter was working as a labourer on a building site and introduced me to all his mates. They all accepted me as a woman.

"We had holidays together and were just like any other courting couple—but we never had sex.

"Peter told me he was having arguments with his parents because I was so much older than him.

"One night I came home from work and found him sitting on my doorstep with his suitcases.

"He told me he'd left home and wanted to live with me. It was then that I realised how much I



WEDDING DAY: Sandor the "bride" with his groom and the vicar they duped

Registration District <u>City of Westminster</u>						
1959. Marriage solemnized at <u>the Registrar Office</u>						
in the District of <u>City of Westminster</u> in the Metropolitan						
No.	When married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or profession	Residence
74	September 1959	Sandor Virag	24 years	Bachelor	Hotel Stillroom Man	10
		Marie Grace Heygode	20 years	Spinster	Nurse	10
Married in the <u>Registrar Office</u> according to the _____ of the _____						

FIRST wedding certificate for Sandor as the bridegroom

And here is the proof

1976. Marriage solemnized at <u>St. Leonard's Church</u>						
of <u>St. Leonard's Church, Hackney</u> in the <u>London Borough of Hackney</u>						
No.	When married	Name and surname	Age	Condition	Rank or profession	Residence
210	26th June 1976	BORUCKI Peter John	25	Bachelor	Unemployed Machine Operator	36, 44
		SANDOR Anita Verig	35	Spinster	Cashier	28, 44
Married in the <u>St. Leonard's Church</u> according to the <u>Canon and Common Law of the Church of England</u>						

SECOND time around and now he's Anita, the blushing bride

loved him. Peter was firmly convinced that I was a woman. How could I tell him?

"Finally I knew I had to tell him the truth and risk losing him.

"When I told him that the woman he was in love with was really a man my heart panicked as I saw the look of shock and bewilderment spread across his face.

"But he said he couldn't leave, and told me he'd loved me from the first moment.

"It didn't make any difference to him and when I had a sex change I'd be a proper woman anyway.

"To this day Peter's parents still don't know I'm legally a man.

"All I'm looking for-

ward to now is the operation which will make me a complete woman. I don't want to be regarded as some queer dressed in drag."

Machine operator Peter has the word "Anita" tattooed on one arm.

He told me: "I've always thought of her as a woman and nobody is ever going to make me feel she's a man.

"To me, Sandor Virag is dead and buried. But Anita Borucki is alive and happy. I can't wait until she has the sex change and we can make love normally.

"I know I conned the vicar, but we got married in church because we believed it was right.

"I don't think we've done anything wrong.

What I miss in a marriage like ours is not having children. I know it will never be possible but we'd like to adopt or foster some.

"We have tried but the authorities say Anita is too old. Of course, they don't know she's a man.

"But whatever happens in the future our ambition is to continue to be as happy as we are now. If anything ever happened to Anita, I know I'd never marry again."

The Rev. Peter Ronayne told me: "I had no knowledge that they were both men.

"I had the wool pulled over my eyes and I have nothing on my conscience."