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NEWSLETTER EDITORS
Helen
and
Wilma Thordsen

Hi Girls:

Well it looks like another month gone by and we had a very pleasant group here last night for our night together. The weather fine, but it seems that some of the girls were having car troubles. First Elanda called and said she had to turn back as her car was acting up and she was afraid that she would not make it back home. Next Yvonne came and she asked Wilma for a wrench as the belt on her car was off and she couldn't get it started, so Sue was on her way in so she took Yvonne out to buy a new belt and put it on so that they could get home. Then Karen came and said she didn't think she was going to make it as her car also was giving her a problem. But as it turned out they all made it here and home. I guess that happens to the best of us.

The Girls who made the meeting were: Dennie and Michelle Ann from Somerville Mass., Eileen and Pricella from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Yvonne and Vickie from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Sue from Hoosick Falls, N.Y. Guest Gloria from Albany, N.Y. Alice and Connie from Pennsacola, Florida, (Alice had to go back home as she didn't feel good.) so Connie didn't stay too long. Hope you are feeling better Alice. Germaine and Elaine from Williams town, Vt., Linda and Danielle from Quechee, Vt., Alice from Colonie, N.Y. Karen and Flo from Saratoga, N.Y., Renee From Stratford, Conn., Sheryl from Troy, N.Y., Beverly from Rexford, N.Y. John (We'll get his femme name later, Wilma forgot it) from Colonie, N.Y. Wilma and I.

The meal tonight was: Meat loaf, potatoes, corn green bean casserol, squash broccoli with cheese sauce, toss salad, rolls, butter, cake and coffee.

I was surprised to see so many of the girls already sign for the Xmas Party This will be our last meeting here then off to Boston to Michelle Ann and Dennies home as they are going to be the new Hosts. They have both been close personal friends of ours and I know that they will carry on just as we have over all these years. They are both friendly and gracious and warm people. I do hope you will all try to make some of the meetings at one time or another and give these two people a hand in the kitchen as you so gracefully had helped me in the kitchen.

It has been our pleasure to be able to bring together all these T.V.'s for all these years and in some cases to bring their wives to better understand them as to why they want to cross dress. Some of the girls pass well enough that they can go out as they please and then those who are afraid to go out in public dressed at least had a chance to come here and enjoy themselves without hurting anyone. Some of the girls who are alone with no family ties can do what they feel they want to. On the other hand those that have family and are in a neighborhood where every one watches what goes on, do have to be careful not to tarnish their reputation or humiliate their wives. Neighbors can be cruel when they latch on to some gossip especially when they find your husband dresses in women's clothes, you don't know what to say back. This is why I say to all T.V.'s be careful how you conduct yourself at home and away.

I know it is not easy to control that urge to dress but call a friend and talk with them, better yet see if they can meet with you and talk. As I observe some of the girls here I wonder, how is their life at home do they push their dressing on their wives to the point where they battle or perhaps get to the point of divorce. I believe that if a wife goes along with your dressing, don't get to the stage where you think of only yourself. Sit down and talk things over between you and let her have a few things on her side. If she lets you dress don't make it every night, ease off a little and let her feel her way into the life you like and I'm sure that in the long run you will find that she will accept you more as time goes by. I know a lot of the wives who at first saw what their husbands were doing didn't care too much for what they saw, but as time went by and their husbands didn't push the subject they slowly came to see that what their husbands were doing was not as bad as some things that are going on in this world. To completely accept this style of life we have to wait and see the public accept transvestism on the whole. They are slowly listening to some of the girls speaking out about T.V.'ing. Some have been on T.V. talk shows and hope to be on again soon. Some day there will be a breakthrough, but you must all be patient, good things come slowly.

Untill I see you all next month, be good and careful and God bless you all Don't forget the Xmas Party if you are coming make your call early.

Love to all

Helen

HOW FAR DO I GO?

I hope that this article does not anger anyone, but I am writing in behalf of the long suffering wives and girl friends, as well as for those of us who feel too restricted. I suggest then that this article be read jointly and the issues be settled by mutual accord.

There is not a TV reading this who would not enjoy the privilege of total liberty to cross dress and have the ability to affect total transformation from male to female. The married TV cannot unless he has a wife who is content with the transformation and strong enough to face what could result in the years to come. Few wives are content with this, and even fewer are strong enough to face what it entails.

Behind the question: How Far Do I Go? are the issues which must be settled mutually after much discussion. (a) Ear Piercing (b) Removal of Hair, face & body (c) Sleeping Attire (d) Female clothing under male apparel (e) cross dressing outside (f) who is to know.

I have spoken to wives on these subjects and have read of their fears and anxieties too. Believe me girls, this article is important to you and to your wives. Some wives have tolerated their partners sleeping in feminine nightgowns, and endured sex in this attire. Some do not care, but some DO.

Some wives tremble in fear when their loved one steps outside the house heading for work wearing panties and/or other feminine garments beneath their outer attire. It is a terrific strain upon them emotionally. They worry about detection and what knowledge of this means to their family security.

It is the same when we consider electrolysis for beard and/or body hair removal, and when we consider passing in public, ear piercing, and so on. The inconsiderate TV may go ~~xxx~~ on and do these things without discussing them and having his mate's approval, but it could lead to serious problems for the wife emotionally, and for their marriage.

(a) EAR PIERCING.... This is permanent. After it has been done correctly, and a short time has passed, it is scarcely noticeable by even the barber, but these tiny holes will be opened as long as you live, and it can't be undone. It is so very true that it makes you feel more feminine when you put them pierced ear rings on, but can your wife take it?

(b) REMOVAL OF HAIR... Here again is a critical issue. Some wives will not go beyond a certain point. I hope that some will not consistently override their wife's objections. In behalf of us, I urge the wife to consider the TV's side. After all, men of biblical times often shaved their entire bodies with sharp knives. It made them no less potent.

(c) SLEEPING ATTIRE... I am sure that the wife will give or meet you half way on this issue, but talk it over with her, compromise. It is sheer ecstasy and a luxury to slip into a sheer, pretty nightgown and drift off to dream-world, but compromise please. It means much to a wife to have her husband in bed with her part time. Ask your wife and be willing to give some.

(d) UNDER MALE ATTIRE... What does your wife think about this? Get her thoughts and limit yourself accordingly. After all, marriage is a partnership. If she is tolerant enough to let you dress, you have greater privileges than many. There are shorts for men made of nylon that are comfortable.

(e) OUTSIDE APPEARANCES... Few of us are able to pass in daylight. Some can at night. I have known girls that enjoyed being driven about by their wives, and have ridden in a car with couples on occasions. It is stimulating and very enjoyable. You should impress a curfew. No daylight rambling. Maybe at at Mardi Grass in New Orleans or a special occasion but otherwise: uh uh. It is a matter of decision by the two of you.

(f) WHO IS TO KNOW? ... Don't be too anxious to drag the wife before other girls. Ask her opinion but don't push too hard, or she will draw back. Be selective. Just use common sense. As for telling outsiders or other family members: It is a case of mutual agreement and should not be blundered into. Too few accept the fact that we are not sex deviates yet. As for children: Only you know the maturity of your own children.

In conclusion, maybe I Haven't helped at all, but I hope that this will set you wives and girls to thinking. The issues are important. To all of us. Communication is the key to concord. Talk it over but don't press each other to immediate decision. It isn't something that must be decided today. Both the wife and the TV have tender feelings so respect them....

There is nothing more enjoyable in life, love and happiness to a couple who can sit down and talk things over and meet each other half way....

PARTY DATES :

NOVEMBER 19th -- DECEMBER 17th and JANUARY 21st.....

December 17th will be our 12th Christmas party. Unfortunately we can only accomodate a MAXIMUM of 30 PEOPLE, so reservation are required well in advance. Come and share with us a beautiful evening and don't forget to play in our BIG GRAB BAG GAME. It is a lot of fun for non players as well as players.

JANUARY 21st party will be held in the home of our NEW PRESIDENT Michell Ann Bolis who's address is

Michael
MR. & MRS MICKEL [REDACTED]

Security and reservation will be the same. Call [REDACTED] I will have Michelle Ann draw up a map so that members will not get lost. I will have it printed in the November & December Journal.

NEW MEMBERS :

I am pleased to announce the enrollment of two new members.

CINTHIA DEL SOL NEW YORK CITY N.Y.

WES & DWL H. GLENS FALLS N.Y.

CLUBS RATES :

Full Membership \$17 per year.
Subscription to the TVIC monthly Journal \$12 per year.
PARTIES - Couples \$13 - Singles \$8 - None members \$15.
Hours. 4pm till lam. Dinner served at 8pm
Dressing a must. Private room for dressing.
Party dates - 3rd Saturday of every month.
Reservation's - All reservation must be made 4 days in advance of a party date

QUESTION OF THE MONTH :

Give an account of your most interesting or frifgtning experience while you were in femme.

JOKES:

Karen Goyer told me she had been nagging his wife for weeks about needing a new outfit, but she just paid no attention to her. So finnally Karen went out and charged the most expensive chic dress she could find. That evening she definantly put it on and sailed into the family room where her wife was reading. When she glanced up from her book at Karen gliding back and forth in front of her, she said with a resigned sxiigh, "Okay. okay, you've made your point. Go get a new dress!"

Helen Thordsen waking up in the hospital after undergoing an operation opened her eyes to find her doctor looking down at her. Seeing that she was begining to come around, the doctor told her that he had some good news and some bad news for her. Give me the bad news first, said Helen. "I8m sorry, but during the operation we encountered some complications," said the doctor sadly, "So we had to remove both of your breasts." "Oh No!" Exclaimed Helen, "Whats the good news?" Well, the Doctor answered, "The transexual Susan Morrison in the next bed wants to buy all of your old bras."

A British diplomate in Moscow was attending a dinner in the Kremlin. He found himself next to a gorgeous blonde. He droped his handkerchief and stroked her ankle as he picked it up. No response. He then dropped his fork and stroked her knee. She said nothing to him. He then dropped his other fork and took the note that she handed him. It read "When you reach your destination, show no surprise. George Carruthers, Secret Agent...."

Want Add In A Newspaper; Found in the glove compartment of my car. One pair of black lace panties by my wife. Will the joker who put them there get me off the hook! I'm living at the YMCA and want to go home. A Homeless Guy....

Michell Ann said, "'I'M KING of my house and I can wear my wife's clothes anytime.

Wilma: "Is that so?"

Michelle Ann: "Yeah, my wife crowned me last week....."

Carol Taylors' UndieWorld

by: carol

Dear Ladies:

Are you like me, a catalog "junkie"? I must get every intimate apparell (never could spell that one) catalog printed. I've been getting them for years and I've noticed a few interesting things. They must know that most of their catalogs are ordered by TVs that rarely order anything but instead just sit around and drool over the models and wish like hell they looked like that! They used to send them free, now they charge. It seems you sort of subscribe to these catalogs, as you would Penthouse or (hopefully) Playgirl, because after about a year, by golly, they stop coming (and so do I) and it's necessary to send in another one, two, three or even more dollors to enjoy more issues of beautiful females in beautiful lingerie. I think I've been an active reader of Glamour, Madmoiselle (how come I can spell that and not apparell?-easy, the magazine is in front of me), Cosmopolitan, Vogue and other magazines divoted to femininity for 20 years. I read 'em cover to cover every month. I go so far as to clip all the ads for intimate stuff (that was a cop-out) and file them. I own, at last count, about a hundred brassieres, just for starters. I OWN every Bali, Olga, Warners, Maidenform, Vassarette, Vanity Fair, Carnival, Formfit, Gossard, Jantzen, Kayser, Lovable, Playtex, Poirette, Bestform, ExquisiteForm, (whew) bra, girdle and merry widow on the market. Garter belts? I must own 30, in every imagineable style, fabric and color. Same goes with stockings, camisoles, tap pants, panties. I have a great selection of waist cinches, merry widows, teddies, and padded girdles. A full 34B doesn't need many padded bras but I have quite a few, and push-up bras too

SO WHY DO I SUBSCRIBE TO EVERY LINGERIE CATALOG AVAILABLE ??????

Beats me, I guess, like you, I love 'em! I thought it might be nice to list a few of the catalogs, in case you don't already subscribe, and tell you a bit about them. Maybe you will learn something, and laugh a bit too.

Fredericks WOW what can I say, in-up push up pads, secret circle bras, clingy knits, backless fronts and cheeky bottoms, he uses air, foam rubber, extra skin, bones, Lycra, underwires and Profile Cups (tm) to create a body that still can't come close to the drawings in the catalog. Lots of fun but few women, less tv's could look like that. He doesn't make too much in our size either-padded girdle is OK and if you can get the lingerie to fit, good for you, but you won't look like the catalog...

Intimate Affairs Wow SAVE YOUR MONEY, unless you need liquor flavored body oils, or enjoy seeing older, chunky, men and women in completely rediculous (how about bare breasts poking through malibou, oops thats maribou (furry) trim, or mens pants that say "home of the wopper". Even a poor selection of vaginal and anal vibrators! Bedroom Fantasies is a small step above Intimate Affairs, a small step! If your into G-strings this may be worth the price, an impressive selection. otherwise the satin basque or camisole may be the only thing worth looking at.

Victorias Secret SPEND YOUR MONEY! and lots of it but this one is the BEST..I have gone so far as to write them and say how very much I enjoy their things. This is a collection of the best lingerie in the WORLD with heavy concentrations on satin, lace and designer names most people never heard of- Prima, Ora Feder, Givenchy (OK so you heard of that one) Sami, Iris etc, etc. Yet she has enough sense to add the Flexnit A-OK line of A cup bras, perhaps in response to my letter that we tv's felt a bit left out. Oh there's a \$440 gown and tap pants can easilly run \$60 (one silk pair is over \$100) BUT don't run away yet, there is plenty of great lingerie and bras, panties, garterbelts and delicious stockings that are expensive but affordable and very worth it. My \$135 Prima merry widow in lavender is my prize posession.

Intimique - This is a very similar catalog to Victorias Secret, but only about one third the selection. Also featuring the best names in lingerie around the world. Lots of satin by Ralph Montenero, @owns, camis, chemise, taps, stockings, and a quite limited selection of bras, cinches and garter belts. But if you must be limited, be limited with Poirette whose bustiere is only topped by their matching demi-cup bra (a beautiful underwired A cup), cincher, and string bikini (with a high front and ~~amp~~ comfortable for even the most endowed ladies). At \$66 (before stockings) it's a must for every wardrobe. A really nice selection from Cincinnati (of all places!).

La-Femme - I was suspicious when the whole catalog came in an envelope with a 20¢ stamp affixed by hand. The whole thing is an 8½ x 11 color sheet with see through camis, taps, harem pj's, knickers and a teddi. Nothing you couldn't find in any decent lingerie department. The catalog is free- save the 20¢.

Adam & Eve - This is a very erotic little 48 page catalog. Don't buy it for the lingerie selection which is mostly sheer panties, a couple of nice gowns, some crotchless and see-through stuff etc. Most of the catalog is quite sexually oriented. About the greatest selection of vaginal, penil, nipple and anal vibrators and stimulators in one catalog. Magazines on lesbianism, voyeurism, panties, S&M, female masterbation, erect nipples etc, etc. Oh sure, gay mags too but I didn't see any about us. Condoms, records, bondage equip., movies, ben-wa balls, - a fun book.

(cOntinued on page 5)

(continued from page 4)

Lace-n-Things - A very usual selection of intimate lingerie modeled by many less than perfect ladies (but I'm not a perfect feminine specimen either, although I keep right on trying!). Not too bad a selection on Lily of France, Glydons and a truly sexy see-through french maids outfit that only comes in P*S*M. The Maidenform "Chantilly" line is in the 16 page catalog, as is some unusual teddies. They do have a small collection of lingerie for the overweight. A cami, slip, teddy, bra, panties, garterbelt (up to 5X) and gown set. If you are substantially overweight, get the catalog. And then look how terrible these ladies look and go on a diet and exercise it off!

Lauries - came the other day, un solicited. Kind of nice. Cover is a beautiful girl in a Poirette bustiere. That was a great start since it is one of my all time favorites. The guepiere (the what?) The guepiere - hey I thought you were into lingerie. Actually, I thought I was an authority on lingerie but that was a new one. Its a merry widow and a beautiful one at that, and it did very little to quiet the unfeminine disturbance in my now damp panties. Nice sexy and very feminine make-up jacket, a teddy and more teddys, some very sexy, all very very feminine. One bra by Prima. A small collection of very nice things. Box 12263, Dallas Tx., 75225 (never saw an ad)

Chippendales Romantic Lingerie Catalog - Actually Chip's is a Los Angeles nightclub that has an all male, very macho dance review and they've sold very macho G-strings and T shirts for years. About a year ago they decided we girls needed some fun too and started a high fashion intimate wear mail order business. The catalog is a mixture of very macho mens intimate wear and some extremely feminine but modest selection of lingerie. A georgeous robe for \$35 with matching gown at \$30 looks like lots more. A different lacy boudoir outfit (blouse and pants), nice garterbelts (2), camis and taps, babydolls and a merry widow for under \$40 inllilac and slippers. In my not-so-humble opinion the centerfold matching set of bra, garterbelt, bikini and point d'espris stockings is lovely and Horay, Horay and underwired A! The stockings look a bit fragile but very sexy. All-in-all not a bad selection.

Fantasia - A nice collection of better lingerie, but not terribly unique. Kayser, Sassoon, Formfit, Berlei, Lily of France, Jezebel, Glydons, Poirette (that wonderful Bustier again!), Fassarette and Val Mode sleepwear. Bras (only one A), panties, garterbelts, chemises, a dressing jacket, some sexy full (but short, even one mini slip that will soon be in my dresser) teddies, camis and taps. A different babydoll resembling a maidd outfit and another by Glydon I'm nuts about. Nice gowns too some demure and a couple to let your partner know you want more than wine in you. Try it!

Dear TVIC Editor (Wilma, who else?)

One thing that meeting other girls and joining the TVIC has done for me is to change the nature of my nighttime dreams... Before I came out of the closet, before I met any other girls, my infrequent nighttime dreams of being dressed were fear dreams, almost a nightmare. I was always trying to run (unsuccessfully) from somebody who would catch me dressed. I would wake up in a fear sweat. Since coming out and meeting other girls, since going to TVIC meetings these dreams have ceased being fearful. Still infrequent, these ~~are~~ dreams are of being in a crowd. perhaps meeting somebody I know who treats me as Cynthia, of doing normal activities as Cynthia might do when going out dressed. What a Difference! I wonder how many other girls have had this experiance?/// CYNTHIA JANE [REDACTED] ANCRAMDALE....N.Y.

Dear Helen and Wilma,

It's the end of an era--your giving up entertaining TV's, their wives and girlfriends every month. We feel sorry for those who have never known your hospitality but even more sorry for those (like us) who have been there and hate to see it end. Over the years the number of TV's who have crossed your threshold number over 1,000. For welcoming them all into your home; feeding them sumptuous home-cooked meals; allowing them to change into their dream clothes and back out of them; for your counseling of trembling, insecure wives and giving reassurance to the "closet cases;" for providing a haven in an often-hostile outside world on one special Saturday night every month for a glorious 10-hour TV party; and for that unique, upbeat piece of literature, TVIC JOURNAL, chuck full of personal warmth, wisdom, humor and information--for all this a mere "thank-you" would be a gross understatement. You both deserve to be nominated for sainthood! We all love ya' bunches and our appreciation is exceeded only by our wishes for your continued happiness for years and years.

Alice and Connie [REDACTED]

Dear Wilma:

We were sorry to hear that you are stepping down as Chairman, but we can understand why. I want you and Helen both to know how much have done for me personally, and that I appreciate everything.

JERRY HINCHLEY..... WILLIAMSTOWN.....VT.....

Dear Wilma:

Someone asked the readers how to develop a feminine voice. Well here is the non-copyrighted Dolan method. Conscientiousness, diligence and unswerving perseverance are essential ingredients. (Let's see whether that sentence can make it through the Thordsen typewriter) The Dolan method calls for a supply of recorded music. Start with the highest pitched vocalist whose notes you can comfortably duplicate. Sing along with the tape or disc for 2 half hour session's daily until that vocalist seems to have developed a lower pitch. Switch then to a different vocalist whose pitch is somewhat higher. Keep in mind that you are not auditioning for a part in a Broadway musical or classical opera. You are merely training your brain to feel comfortable with the sound of a higher pitch. But there is more to a feminine voice than pitch. Tone is also important. Strive for smoothness. The deep soft purr of a gentle pussy cat sounds more feminine than the higher pitched snarl of an angry tiger. Softness is another key feature of an attractive feminine voice. Compare the deep sound of Tallulah Bankhead's voice with the higher pitch of Truman Capote. Her voice is softer and more feminine. Practice all 3 features daily: pitch, tone, and softness. Try speaking just above a whisper in an empty room. After a few months, you will have achieved the SOUND of a feminine voice. But it will not be a feminine voice. You will have tricked your brain into accepting your new voice, but strangers will not yet be ready to be tricked into believing it to be a woman's voice even if you are a woman. Put the records. It's time to practice the female attitude. Women spend a lifetime developing their own vocabulary, while men waste their time in trivial MAN TALK and trying to IMITATE female vocalists. Choice of words is THE most important feature. I saved it for last because of timing. Pitch takes the most time to learn. Tone and softness also require practice. But attitude can not be learned from the recordings of a female vocalist. The attitude must be felt, much in the way an actor feels the character he portrays. A man may say, "Hey, that's a nice kid you got there." A woman is more likely to say, "Oh, what a beautiful baby! Can I hold her?" Men state facts and make demands (in theory). Women are expected to ask timidly and be somewhat confused. Men throw words with the force of a fire hose. Women let their words flow like a bubbling brook. The next step must not be attempted during the first 6 months. Pick up the phone and call the store. DON'T say, "Hey! what time do you guys close?" Say, "excuse me, I was wondering, could you tell me what time your store closes?" Don't be too disappointed when the first dozen tries elicit the response "We will be open until six, SIR." If you run out of local stores, try telephone information. Lie a little. You are not under oath. DON'T say, "Gimme the number of Hohn Smith!" Fake it. Say, "city? Oh dear, I think they live in Albany. Helen Thorton. Oh no, I mean Thordsen. Yes that's it. Oh, no - I mean Wilma Thordsen, unless it's listed under Bill or maybe William. Anyway, I'm pretty sure they live on Broadway. It's a cute little house near the corner." Of course it's an exaggeration. All of your practice is. You will eventually settle for a lower pitch than the notes in those songs. You will try for a softer voice than you will eventually use. And your choice of words will gradually shift to a more feminine Vocabulary. The method works. Danny O'Connor was voted the nation's best teenage male vocalist. Three years later, as Cannary Conn, she was hired as a female singer. Three years ago, I sang bass in a country band. Today I sing alto. Thirty years ago, I shouted orders to my men in Korea. Today a neighbor asked if I could spare a tampon. If you are pressed for time and must develop a feminine voice by this evening, try whispering the magic phrase, "I have laryngitis." JOYCE ██████████. MANCHESTER...N.H.

Dear Wilma & Helen:

I am sorry to hear that you are retiring from the club. You have both done a good job. I imagine you have had it by now. Thanks for all the nice memories of the past 12 years. You both were wonderful.

PAULA DAVENPORT.....BLOOMINGTON.....CALIF.

Dear Editor: Received your TVIC Journal and found it most interesting. As the president of Lane Bryant, Inc., the chain of stores which cater to women in larger & taller sizes, I would like to commend your work in promoting the donning of women's attire by men of the transvestic persuasion. Transvestism has opened up a whole new market for us, since most TV's as you refer to them, can avail themselves to our size range. We invite them to come in to see us just so long as they are discrete and do not call attention to themselves & inadvertently embarrass our women customers. Those who come to our stores in feminine attire should do so only if they can reasonably "pass" as women. Our salespersons have been instructed to treat discreet transvestite customers with total courtesy, even if they are aware of their motives in purchasing dainty items of feminine apparel.

L.B.....INDEANAPOLIS.

Dear Wilma: I am sorry to hear that you are stepping down as Chairman, but we can understand why. I want you and Helen both to know how much we love you personally, and that I appreciate everything.

JERRY BENCHLEY.....WILLIAMSTOWN.....VT.....

Cross-dressers consider 'pervert' label is unfair

A Male Housekeeper Dressed as a Woman Is Termed an Arsonist

By JAMES BARRON

Special to The New York Times

MINEOLA, L.I., July 9 — A 25-year-old man who had dressed as a woman and worked as a housekeeper since 1977 has been charged with setting fire to his employer's house in Harbor Isle, L.I., according to the Nassau County police.

The suspect, identified as Harold Slaughter of Jamaica, Queens, was arraigned today in First District Court here. Judge William Steiffer ordered Mr. Slaughter — who wore a brown dress during the proceedings — held in \$10,000 bail.

For the last three years he had worked as a housekeeper for Louise Rothblatt, who knew him as Laverne Spence. The police said Mr. Slaughter had been taking hormones in an effort to effect a sex change.

Mr. Slaughter is charged with setting fire to two bedrooms of Mrs. Rothblatt's home on Monday after they had had an argument.

The police gave this account: Mrs. Rothblatt was on the second floor of her home at about 12:30 P.M. when she smelled smoke. She ran downstairs and found the housekeeper in a bathroom, holding a knife. The telephone wires had been cut.

Mrs. Rothblatt and the housekeeper fled the burning building, the housekeeper walked away while firemen from Island Park were putting out the blaze, which authorities said caused \$60,000 worth of damage.

The police went to housekeeper's last-known address and asked the woman who answered the door there if she had a daughter who lived with her. She told the police that she had no daughter, but that she had a son who impersonated women and had been working as a maid.

TRANSSEXUAL REINCARNATION

A private foundation has awarded a three-year, \$450,000 grant to a Van Nuys, California, group named the Alpha Gamma Project to study possible links between reincarnation and transsexualism. Psychologist Dr. Nancy Ledins, a transsexual and a

former Roman Catholic priest, who directs this project, is studying 450 transsexual men and women to "try to determine whether reincarnational imprinting tends to short-circuit current life-styles for some people."

After a personal experience that suggested to her such a link might exist, Dr. Ledins said, "I decided that if I ever got a chance to pursue it, I would. I got the opportunity through this grant."

Now in its first year, the study is hampered by negative publicity, Ledins said. "Every time something appears, I spend three months shoring up the dike before I can get back to research. Some people don't like what we're doing."

Yet Ledins does believe the study might help explain why certain people have trouble adjusting to their gender and why they undergo sex-change operations. — Allan Maurer

Los Angeles Times
SAN DIEGO — The opening moments of social gatherings are often somewhat awkward, and this one is no exception as the host begins introductions:

"I'm Pam and this is my wife, Judy," "This is Terri. He lives in Point Loma." "Terri, I'd like you to meet Michelle. He's interested, as I guess we all are, in forming a group."

After a bit of small talk about Ellen's new shell-pink outfit ("I bought it off the rack in Fed-Mart") and the lovely wood paneling and beamed ceilings of the sprawling suburban home, the group moves to a side patio and settles itself "away from the children's bedrooms, although I'm sure that we won't bother them. They sleep through anything," Pam's wife explains.

Compelling urge

If the genders and the names don't seem to match, it's because the host and most of the guests at this gathering are transvestites — men with a compelling urge to dress and pass as women.

Host Pam is dressed in navy blue, a long-sleeved, high-necked frock which, he explains to an outsider, is "the only way I can cover up the hair on my chest and arms." Judy, his wife, objects to his shaving the upper body but relents when it comes to his legs, too hairy to be concealed under pantyhose.

Michelle, the eldest and most experienced transvestite in the group, resembles an English dowager in his tastefully curled wig and floral print dress with a scoop neckline.

"It's the voice that usually gives us away," Michelle explained while keeping his gaze on his carefully manicured nails. "I've learned to modulate mine, speak in a lower tone and perhaps a bit higher pitched than normal."

Michelle has traveled extensively — as a woman — and can gossip from first-hand experience about many rich and famous men with penchants for dressing up occasionally in female clothing.

"And not just movie actors, ei-

ther. There are a lot of people high in government and industry," Michelle added.

"And at least two U.S. presidents," chimed in Vince Huntington, the only male guest wearing male clothing, a recognized expert in sex-identity problems, including transvestism.

Huntington and a fellow counselor, Sally Cutler-Smith, operate a clinic and specialize in the counselling of transvestites, transsexuals and homosexuals.

Transvestites are men who want to experience both the male and female sides of their personalities but who restrict their sexual activities to the heterosexual. Transsexuals are men who feel trapped in their male bodies and wish to escape to live as women who are sexually attracted to men.

As the wine warms the friendships of the group, the talk turns, for the benefit of the outsider, to the problems and rewards of cross-dressing.

"My wife doesn't approve of this," confessed Ellen, whose new outfit and long blonde page-boy wig created a pleasing picture of a pretty woman in her early 30s.

Cross-dressers need a sense of humor, most admit, perhaps because without humor their situation appears pathetic and puzzling, even to other cross-dressers.

Sense of security

The men who don feminine attire describe their rewards variously as sexually stimulating, as euphoric, as providing a sense of peace and security.

Most admit envy for women, who can dress in male clothing with impunity, without threat of being labeled perverted or "queer."

Huntington cites studies of sexual behavior and personal observances over years that show that only a small fraction — less than one per cent — of cross-dressers are homosexual.

Unfortunately for the great majority of heterosexual cross-dressers, the small fraction of homosexual transvestites get

most of the public attention with their aberrant behavior.

Headlines reading "Transvestite Prostitute Shot to Death by Spurned Customer" or "Pervert Dressed as Woman Arrested in Arson Death" foster the misconception that all cross-dressers are homosexual, that all dress "in drag" to attract male sex partners.

Not always gay

In truth, Huntington explained, even male prostitutes "in drag" are not always gay. "Some dress as prostitutes simply for the money," he said.

It is comforting to most transvestites, and especially to their wives, to learn that most cross-dressers are "straight" males who view their ventures into women's attire as a means of expressing the female side of their personalities or escaping from the "macho" and competitive pressures of their male worlds, Huntington said.

When he began his exploration of the transvestite lifestyle in 1976, he had many of the same misconceptions he encounters in his clients today, Huntington said.

Five years ago he placed an advertisement in a San Diego publication asking heterosexual cross-dressers wanting to meet in a "non-threatening" environment to contact him.

Since then he has met and talked with about 450 San Diego transvestites from all walks of life and has formed a composite picture of their personalities.

"They are above average in intelligence and usually in earning capacity. They are achievers, aggressive and competitive, attracted to high-pressure occupations. Most are married and have a great desire that their wives know about and understand their cross-dressing.

"They tend to be in 'macho' occupations — doctors, lawyers, cab drivers, heavy construction workers, airline pilots. They are truck drivers, not hairdressers. And they are interesting and intelligent people."

Dress law is skirted

HOUSTON (UPI) — It's no longer against the law for men to wear dresses or women to wear trousers.

The City Council here rescinded a city ordinance this week, with one dissenting vote, on advice of a federal judge who ruled earlier this year that it violated the civil rights of transsexuals.

Father nourishes daughter

NEW YORK (AP) — A 6-year-old girl who suckled at her father's breast is thriving and is bigger than other children her age, according to a Brooklyn physician.

The father, a 40-year-old transvestite, was able to aid his wife in breast-feeding duties after the man was treated with a female hormone that allowed him to produce milk, said Dr. Leo Wollman, the man's doctor for 18 years.

Wollman said that to his knowledge the feeding, which lasted three months, was the first and only instance of a man breast-feeding a baby.

"Apparently, clinically it worked all right because she (the baby) thrived and now she's bigger than kids her age," Wollman said.

Wollman reported the case to the Gender Identity Clinic at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in conjunction with Dr. John Money, director of the Psychohormonal Research Unit there.

Wollman, who is a psychiatrist, endocrinologist and gynecologist at Maimonides and Coney Island hospitals in Brooklyn, refused to identify his patient but said the man lived in metropolitan New York and holds "a very responsible, well-paid job."

Wollman said he had been giving the man female hormones to develop his breasts for 12 years before the birth of the baby.

A Changing View On Changing Sex

By Randolph Smith and Alan Finder

In December, 1952, news of Christine Jorgensen's sex-change operation by a Danish surgeon awoke Americans to the existence of transsexuals. The event sparked enormous public interest, much of it snide, if not salacious. "EX-GI BECOMES BLONDE BEAUTY," screeched one New York City tabloid.

Yesterday, as Nassau officials and members of the county police digested the news that a county officer has had a sex-change operation, the tone was far more muted. From the county executive to the police commissioner to cops on the beat, the response was one of tolerance. The contrast, said one expert, illustrates how much public acceptance transsexuals have gained over the last 30 years.

"I think today people will accept this a great deal more" than in the past, said Nassau County Executive Frances Purcell, who insisted that the officer will keep his job. "Ten years ago, I don't know what I would have done.

It was disclosed Wednesday that Police Officer Joseph McCormick underwent a sex-change operation on Tuesday. McCormick, a nine-year police veteran, plans to return to active duty in about 30 days and is recuperating at Boulevard Hospital in Long Island City. Officers in the 4th Precinct stationhouse in Hewlett, where McCormick works, were reluctant to speak publicly about their colleague yesterday. But according to officers at the precinct, McCormick is well-liked and respected.

Rozzi described reactions yesterday throughout the police department as being "not very, very negative. In fact, some of it has been supportive.

"We all have to accept changes," said Rozzi. "The mores of the past two decades have changed tremendously. People think cops have a macho image, but they are people like anyone else."

According to Dr. Charles Ihlenfeld, a Manhattan psychiatrist who has worked with many transsexuals, public perceptions of such people have changed significantly in recent years. Publicity given to the sex-changes of people including Renee Richards, the ophthalmologist and tennis player, and British writer Jan Morris altered social attitudes greatly, Ihlenfeld said.

"People now know that individuals can go through this and still come out a functioning person," he said. "I think there is a sense of 'live and let live.'"

Christine Jorgensen said she has noticed a sharp difference in attitudes. A former army clerk who lived in Massapequa at the time of her operation, Jorgensen said network officials banned her from TV in 1953. But last year, she said in a telephone interview from her California home, she was invited by the president of Mexico to speak at a worldwide conference of surgeons in Mexico City.

"We've come a long way, baby," said Jorgensen, who credited many of the changes to a greater public understanding of the role of hormones in gender.

Interviews last night with about a half-dozen Nassau detectives indicated a hesitant acceptance of McCormick's decision, although many said they were concerned about how the public will react when McCormick is back in uniform.

"I feel this officer should be given every opportunity to continue his duties and to continue to prove that he can perform at this best of his ability," said one detective who, like others, spoke on the condition he not be identified.

Only one of those interviewed said McCormick should not be allowed back. ". . . It will limit his effectiveness as a police officer," the detective said.

But Jorgensen contended most people will be understanding. "Best regards to that lady who went through that surgery," Jorgensen said. "Tell her to keep her chins up, all of them."



MILTON THE LADIES' MAN

(LONCE asked)

THAT'S WHY THE LADY HAS A BEARD

The aspiring actress from Kansas City had a most pleasant personality and, by golly, she wasn't that bad looking. Walking through a fancy New York restaurant recently, she stopped at the table of actor Jon Voight to chat. The woman told Jon how much she admired his work, adding that, of



Hoffman: Midnight cowgirl.

course, he remembered they had worked together in *Midnight Cowboy*. How's that, wondered Voight momentarily, before breaking into a roar and recognizing none other than Dustin Hoffman, dressed in drag for his upcoming movie, *Tootsie*.

Another Officer's Story

When Washington, D.C., police officer Ormus W. Davenport III underwent a sex-change operation in 1979, and became Bonnie Nora Davenport, she expected that some of her fellow officers and the people on her beat might not be sympathetic. At the beginning, she was right.

Once, when she cornered what she thought was a burglar in an alley in the district's North West section and called for a backup, she found her radio was jammed. She later learned the jamming was deliberate. Another time, Davenport said, she discovered a sexual device stuffed into her motorcycle carrying case. At other times, teenagers on the North West streets she patrolled yelled catcalls.

"I broke down and cried," Davenport, now 39, said yesterday, recalling her actions after finding the object in her bag. "I . . . felt I wasn't wanted."

She persevered, ignoring the teenagers' jeers, the verbal pokes of some officers at the Fourth precinct in North West, a largely middle-class section, and the gossip behind her back. Finally, someone was reprimanded for jamming her radio, and someone else for putting the object in her case. "I was not what they expected," she said. "What they found walking in the door every day was a lady."

Davenport left her Buffalo home at age 18 and joined the Air Force, serving as an air traffic controller at Suffolk County Air Force Base in Westhampton. She left the military in 1965. In 1970, Davenport joined the D.C. department, soon becoming an undercover investigator. Davenport's first marriage produced 3 children, but ended after 10 years, in 1973, when Davenport's wife died of cancer. A second marriage lasted 6 months.

There was always, Davenport said, "a dislike of the male role . . . I didn't have any problems functioning as a normal male physically. I had strong desires for cross-dressing. It was all done in private." Davenport said that, in 1977, stress caused a temporary paralysis of the right arm and right leg. The paralysis convinced Davenport to have the operation in Colorado in November, 1978. She was placed on sick leave without pay, was rehired in February, 1979, and assigned to uniformed patrol duty.

She has no regrets. "I gained the respect of the street people for being me and for being human," Davenport said. "They know I'm a good cop, a fair cop, but a tough cop."



UPI Photo for Newsday
Officer Davenport