

Sacramento, Calif.

The Union

*Transsex*

JUL 1 1977

## History-making wedding

VACAVILLE (AP) — <sup>1304</sup> The bride wore an ivory-colored gown. She was late to the wedding. And she was believed to be the first transsexual to ever marry a California prison inmate.

In a ceremony at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville, 50-year-old Kate Bies married Robert Lonnie Barnes, a 29-year-old convicted murderer, authorities said.

The ceremony occurred Wednesday after Bies pulled up in front of the institution in a powder blue Lincoln Continental and told waiting reporters:

"I'm never late for anything except weddings and funerals."

Bies' marriage was approved by state prison authorities after they checked Stanford Medical Center records on the 1973 sex change operation she had, said spokesman Phil Guthrie.

Guthrie said Thursday that prison regulations bar marriages by people of the same sex. He said this was the first such marriage he had heard of in the state's 11-facility prison system.

Barnes, who first met Bies when she was lecturing at San Quentin on transsexualism in 1975, has a parole hearing scheduled for this October.

When asked why he married Bies before his parole, Barnes said: "Love and loneliness. I have met quite a few women before Kate. But who knows when loves strikes?"

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*Trans Sex*

*1304*

## Transsexual, inmate wed

<sup>1304</sup> VACAVILLE, Calif. (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 Wednesday.

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

The bride, a San Francisco cocktail waitress who formerly was a gay stripper, female impersonator and hair stylist, was half an hour late and said excitedly on arrival: "Would you believe the florist forgot the bouquet? And my hair is a mess."

Born Kenneth Bies in 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.

The wedding went ahead after

Prison Superintendent T.L. Canon checked with the California Department of Corrections and Stanford, which assured him Bies had become a she.

The bride said she formerly lectured in prisons about human sexuality and met her new spouse two years ago.

Concerning the age gap in her marriage, she said:

"I think men of my age are boring. I certainly don't want to slave in the kitchen while my husband sits and watches TV."

Bakersfield, Calif.

Californian

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

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