

GIRL

And Chum Masquerade As Man And Wife For 6 Years

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 9—Ida Weinstein, 29 years old, was buried today in the first dress that clothed her body in six years. As "Ben Rosenstein" and the "husband" of Pauline Rosenstein, with whom she had lived for six years, Ida died yesterday in a pitifully furnished, small bedroom in the rear of the second floor of No. 2146 Ogden avenue, a victim of tuberculosis. Her last gasping request to her "wife" and to her "wife's" mother was that she be buried "in her first black suit."

Pauline Rosenstein is 26. She weepingly told the details of her life as Ida's "wife" whose real sex was not known here even by the "wife's" mother until an undertaker took charge of the remains.

"Ida came to this country seven years ago. Her brother-in-law, Sam Cohen, sent her over. We met and became fast friends in New York where we roomed together at the New York Jewish shelter house. Reading Marx and Tolstoi suggested that Ida adopt a male role. We were paid so terribly little for working in a store. We could really live if one of us received a man's wages. Ida was robust and strong. I wanted to be a man also; we still could have lived together. But Ida said I was too frail. She refused to hear of it. She insisted upon my being her "wife" in the eyes of the world.

"Ida clipped her hair and got a job as a packer. We were very happy. For a while we worked in Detroit. Then we went to Cleveland where we lived as Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cohen and later came to Chicago. It was here that Ida's health began to fail. I wanted then to play the man but Ida would not hear of it. She said she was lonely and was afraid she would die while I was away from her. Now I do not know what to do. I have lost my dearest friend."