

GRANDMOTHER CHANGED SEX



FOR 53 years, Judy Cousins lived a life of turmoil—with a woman's mind in a man's body.

Ten years ago, Judy—who was a father of three—underwent a series of sex-change operations. And now she is willing to tell her full story in the hope of helping other transexuals. Judy's campaign to help people still living in a sexual twilight zone included forming SHAFT—the Self Help Association for Transexuals.

"Initially SHAFT was just me, but it is a more professional group now. We have formed a committee with a constitution

**SPECIAL
REPORT**

**BY NORA
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and are now fairly well recognised," she says.

"Now that we are established—we have 180 members so far—some doctors send people on to us, which is good. Most GPs, when confronted by a transexual say: 'Get married and forget about it' which is rubbish. Getting married is the worst thing to do. I know."

Most transexuals, says Judy, see marriage as a form of security, a way of fending off their strong feelings of wanting to be the other sex.

"There are a lot of fallacies about transexuals and one is that they are all gay. This simply isn't true. As far as their love life is concerned, they are completely heterosexual."

Judy met wife Mary in Egypt at the beginning of the war.

"We met on the tennis court of a hotel beside the Pyramids. It was all very romantic.

"At the time I was an Army officer in the

Western Desert, having been launched into an Army career by my adamant father. I absolutely hated Sandhurst, but I found life in India before the war delightful.

"After the war, I returned to India as a military under-secretary until the British pulled out, when I faced the choice of Civvy Street or joining the British Army.

Fight

"As the Army was the only way of life I knew, I opted for that and soon found myself being sent off to fight another war, this time in Korea.

"But I was also fighting an emotional inner battle, feeling very isolated and alone. In Korea I read a newspaper story about a man who had undergone a sex-change operation.

"It blew my mind," says

IT'S A FACT

D is the name of a Dartmoor stream and also a Japanese town.