

SHOPPING SPOT

There are still some of us old-timers around who remember what it was like before the full shock of the bikini was felt, when nice stores wouldn't stock bikinis and nice girls had never heard of them. In those days, long before boutiques and communal changing rooms, the swimsuit was a construction that did not actually need anybody; it stood alone, stiff and attentive, skirted like a Greek guard of honour; or it hung from its hanger head downwards and ribbed as a bat. A saleslady or our mother or a good friend had to help do up all the hooks and eyes; and later, prone on the beach like insects with exterior skeletons, we squinted up at the world as if from between the tombs of two dead pharaohs or the pointed hats of neighbouring garden gnomes. In the still waters of Knightsbridge such sculpted and adamantine creations are still available, often made-to-order by corsetiers for Grand Ladies who can afford to correct God's oversights and for trans-sexuals who can't afford not to.

BRIDE FINDS OUT HER GUY IS A GIRL

NEWS OF THE WORLD
6/12/31
→

SHAPELY June Chamberlain has called off her wedding plans—after discovering that her fiance John is really a woman.

The amazing double life of 28-year-old "John Roberts," whose real name is Jane Orrey, was revealed when she was hurt in a car crash.

By STEVE VALENTINE

Hospital staff prepared a bed for her in a men's ward... and then found they were treating a woman.

Now June, who was courted by "John" for 11 years, has called off their engagement.

She is too embarrassed to talk about the affair, and a whole town which was taken in by John's tough looks is shocked.

Jane Orrey worked as a stock girl on a goat farm 15 miles from Aberystwyth, Dyfed.

But when she visited the town she posed as a man.

As well as being engaged to June, she played darts for her local pub and did heavy labouring jobs alongside men.

Her charade was so flawless that she even fooled the family she lived with

in Aberystwyth for seven years. Her landlord, motorcycle shop owner Reese Meddins, 44, collapsed with shock at the news.

His wife Mair said: "At first we were very sorry that John had broken both his legs in the crash, but now we're feeling angry at the way he deceived us."

"My husband feels such a fool, John, as we knew him, helped him build walls, dig ponds, repair cars and do other labouring jobs."

Mrs Meddins, of Morlais, Aberystwyth, said June was also a friend of the family and the couple went everywhere together, including holidays.

"The first I knew of all this was when June came to the house and said she had something terrible to tell me," Mrs Meddins said.

"June admitted that she discovered John was really a woman in February, and hadn't known what to do about it."

"Then everything came out when John had his accident last weekend."

June's father, Tom, of Second Avenue, Aberystwyth, still refused to believe that her boyfriend was a woman.

JOKE

But June's employer, goatbreeder Pamela Grisdale, of Nebo Croft Inn, Llannon, said: "We all knew Jane was a girl. She's been working for me for 12 years and came as a girl."

"She's brilliant with animals. She never wore dresses or had boyfriends."

"It really started as a bit of a joke. When people mistook her for a boy she played up to them, but it got out of hand."

"I didn't realise she'd fooled people completely." Jane was known as J.R. at her local pub, the Pier Hotel, in Aberystwyth, where she played for the darts team.

Licensee Ken Harrison said: "Of course we were surprised to discover that John is a woman, but we knew her as a nice, friendly person."

"She'll always be welcome in this pub."

"We've got a mixed darts team anyway, so there won't be any problems there."

LETTER TOMBOY WHO HAS TO WEAR THE TROUSERS

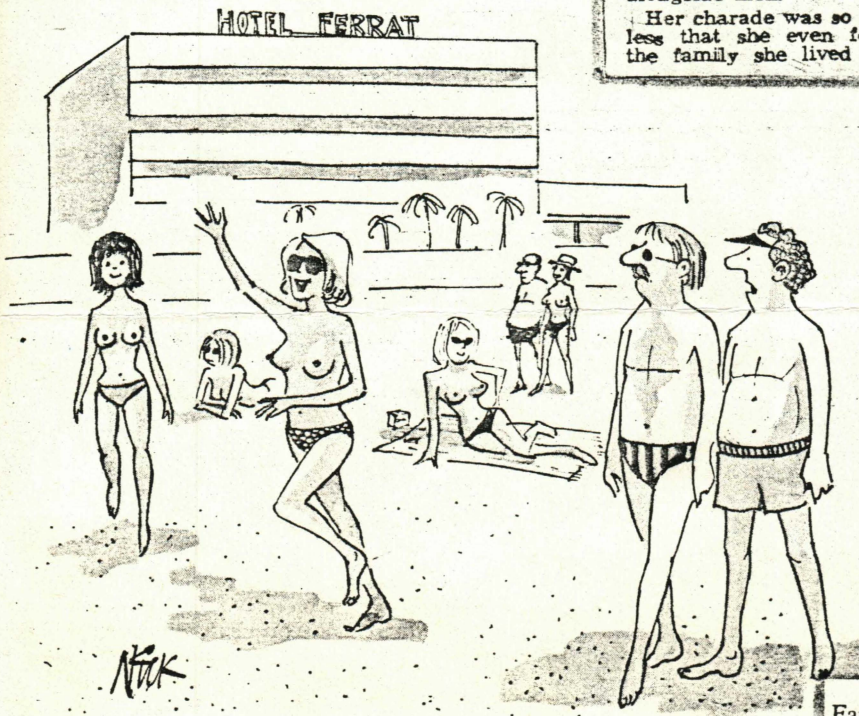
WHY won't my little daughter be persuaded into a dress?

She's six years old, and even though her brothers tease her and try to make her more feminine, she just refuses to wear anything but trousers.

She wants to be one of the boys along with her

brothers. I bet they're always trying to exclude her from their games, so she thinks that looking like a boy will make them let her join in.

Don't worry. When she's bigger and the boys in her life aren't her brothers, she'll be costing her dad a fortune in pretty clothes.



T.V - T.V

The sexual ambiguities of Brideshead are hard enough to disentangle, with Charles Ryder moving in the last episode from his love for Sebastian Flyte to the bed of Sebastian's sister Julia. A colleague who had just watched this episode was startled at a London party last week to see actor Jeremy Irons—who plays Ryder—in deep conversation with sex-change superstar April Ashley. The French Lieutenant's what?

P.S P.S P.S P.S

"It's all very well, but it makes me feel like a transvestite."

Earlier this week the principal of Edinburgh University, Dr John Burnett, was less convinced of the gender of the anonymous donor. "It is either a man or a woman," he said capily.

J. Ritchie (Glasgow Herald)