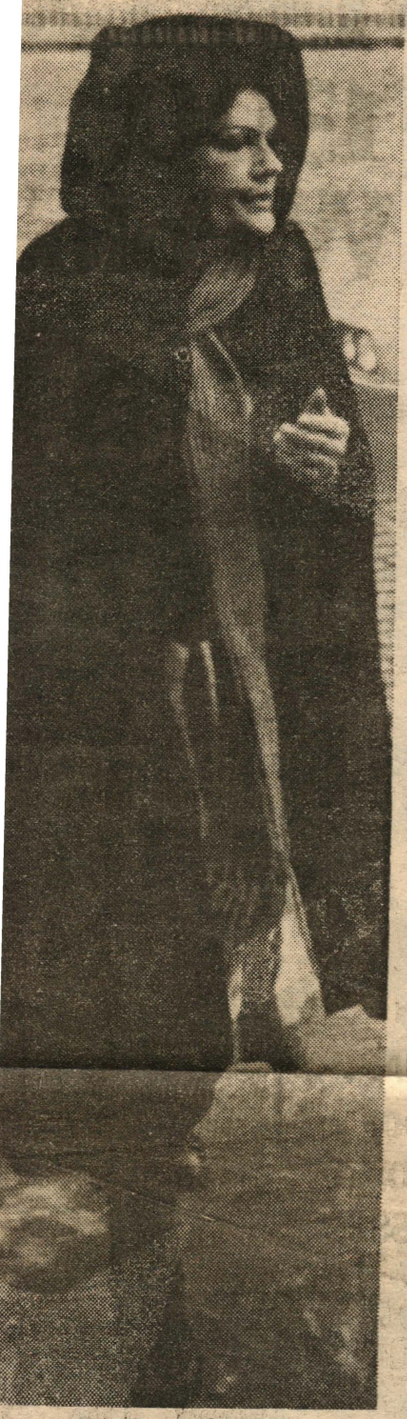
nd-the-world yacht girl tried to get man jailed, says QC



Accused : Tracy Stamp

'Poison case Rosie Swale said: I'm a witch'

By JON RYAN

Accused : Rosie Swale

IN a confession typed just before she took a drugs overdose, round-the-world yachtswoman Rosie Swale admitted being a poisoner and a witch, a court was told yesterday.

And the court heard that Mrs Swale's sex-change friend, Tracy Stamp, was alleged to have boiled a poisoner's brew of laburnum seeds on a stove while chanting from Macbeth 'Double, double toil and trouble.'

Swale and Stamp were both accused at Winchester Crown Court of poisoning 37-year-old docker Keith Vincent, a former boy friend of Tracy Stamp.

Mrs Swale was alleged to have said in the confession : 'I and I alone am guilty.

'As a woman driver is always blamed for an accident so a witch is always blamed for being a poisoner. Because Tracy is a witch much higher than I am, she is being accused with me.'

The alleged confession went on to tell how Mrs Swale's grandmother 'told me again and again' not to eat laburnum seeds.

Villain

And it added. 'I did not want to hurt Mr Vincent but I did it because he was violent to Tracy.

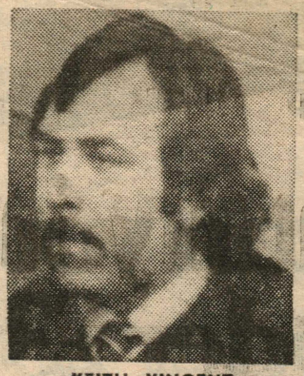
'I have to fight evil with evil, fire with fire. Help Tracy. She has done no wrong.

'I cannot bear to live in a world that thinks me a villain, and now I must take my life that I have valued so dearly.'

Yesterday Swale, 31, and Stamp, 46, of Pennford, Haverfordwest, Dyfed, both denied administering poison with intent to 'injure, aggrieve or annoy'.

They also denied attempting to pervert the course of justice and perjury.

Mr Roger Titheridge, QC, prosecuting, said Stamp, then male, had a sex change operation 20 years ago. In 1964, she met Mr Vincent, then 19,



KEITH VINCENT

They had lived together on and off since 1966.

In 1977, they met Rosie Swale, her husband Colin and their two children. The Swales' marriage was breaking up, and Stamp and Swale became 'very friendly'.

Since 1970, said Mr Titheridge, Mr Vincent had suffered stomach pains, vomiting and nausea caused not by illness but by the fact that Swale and Stamp had been administering poison from the laburnum tree

It was given not to kill Mr Vincent but 'to keep him out of the way.'

Mr Titheridge said that a woman who helped Stamo at home saw her boiling up laburnum seeds while chanting from the witches' scene in Macbeth.

Swale and Stamp, who both appeared in court wearing long flowing black capes and with crucifixes on chains around their necks, had claimed at one time that Mr Vincent was annoying Stamp.

Eventually she was granted a High Court injunction to stop him molesting her.

The two accused hatched a plot to have Mr Vincent jailed by making it appear that he was still pestering her, went on Mr Titheridge.

Wreath

They arranged for a wreath to be sent to Stamp, making out it had come from Vincent, with a card saying : 'In loving memory of my wife Tracy. From Keith.'

Later, when interviewed by police, Mrs Swale was said to have admitted she had poisoned Vincent and sent the wreath.

Swale is alleged to have told police when she admitted trying to get Mr Vincent jailed. 'I thought I was so clever and so famous and well-known that I would get away with it.'

The case continues.