

THE JAIL BIRD

■ In his cell he learned to look like a lady—in lipstick and frilly knickers.

■ He learned to walk like a lady in high heels and wore an apron.

■ He learned to act like a lady—by perming his hair and knitting.

By TOM HENDRY
THE amazing story of a sex-change prisoner can be revealed today.

He was taught the art of being a lady—inside one of Britain's toughest all-male jails. Instead of

Prisoner was taught to be a woman

sewing mailbags, he was taught to knit.

And in his cell, he was allowed to wear lipstick and frilly underwear.

Finally, on his release, he underwent surgery to make him a complete woman—at a cost to the taxpayer of £4,000.

The astonishing "jail bird" is child killer Jim

Berwick who was serving a life sentence.

Twice he refused to leave jail on parole until he was given a sex change.

The former army corporal told prison authorities: "Either I leave here as a woman, or not at all."

Sixteen months before his release he was told

he could have the operation... and was prepared for his future—as a female.

Berwick's lessons in womanhood were learned inside the maximum security Wakefield Prison, Yorks—a "finishing school" with bars.

He chose and wore frilly underwear from fashion catalogues.

Prisoner No. 636050 took up knitting and crocheting and wore a flowered apron while helping the chef prepare meals.

He ran dancing classes for the prisoners, teaching them to waltz and quick-step.

He learned how to walk in women's high-heeled shoes.

He wore gold cross earrings and curled his hair.

The first of three

successful operations to change his sex was performed at St. James's Hospital, Leeds, the day after his release in April last year.

Berwick, who had served fourteen years of a life sentence for killing his eight-year-old step-sister, was driven from jail to hospital by a welfare worker.

He still claims he was innocent and that she fell on a knife by accident.

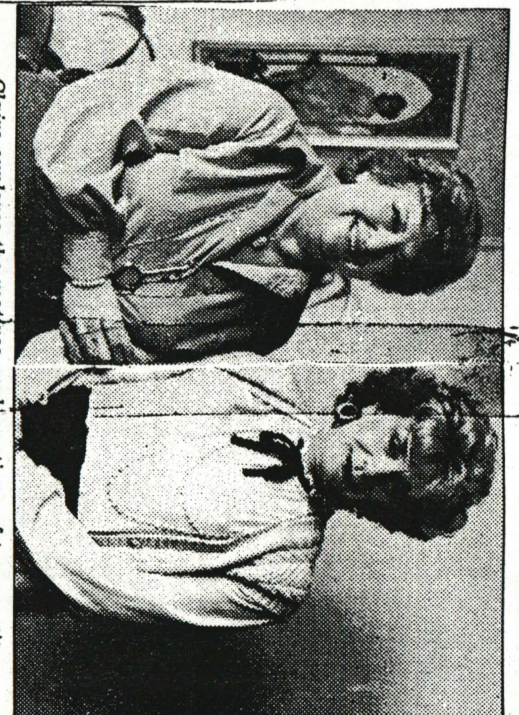
Carlisle-born Berwick is now a common law

wife. Proud of her new 36-24-36 figure and rebuilding her life in the north of England.

A Home Office spokesman said: "When the release of a life-sentence prisoner is considered, a major factor is that the offender is likely to be able to settle into the community and present no risk to the public."

DEATH DIVE

HUNDREDS of migrating swallows were killed on busy main roads near the Kent coast when they were forced to land by icy gales and heavy rain yesterday.



Claire explores the motives and emotions of transsexuals BBC1, 10.55 pm Claire Rayner's Casebook

NEW SERIES

10.55 Claire Rayner's

Casebook

Most people accept their sex without question, but a few do not. Claire talks to three people who have found their identities by crossing the boundaries between male and female: Michael who dresses as Yvonne; Mark who was born a girl; and Rachael who is the father of four children. Producer ROBERT MERCHANT Director JOHN BROOKE

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