IN A CASABLANCA clinic, in October 1958, a French sur-By a revolutionary technique

remaining traces of my original

For years, as you know, my my first toddling steps. It was reand nervous system, feelings and

Little by little, I became con-

an apprentice hairdresser, and later a page boy. I found a pallistive, but not a solution, by becoming a female impersonator, myself in Paris and on the road sible - perform as girls. After incredible tragi-comic go-

free to earn my living, surround

use, it might sound sacrifegious Anyway, I was at Casablanca the "Negresco" cabacet, Friends and acquaintances often came to chat with me after my return. greeting politely but wonder "Who is she?" She looks famil

**Told for the First Time:** 

"How The SEX CHANGE **OPERATION** Was **Performed** On Me!"

Bonus Extra Part II



we meet so many people all the time. It's impossible to remember them all. The young lady sensed my paralement.

"Don't you recognize me?" she asked. I made faint polite sounds, but

she persisted.
"Then you've forgotten the lad
at Nice, the electrician?"

I didn't get the connection. I looked at her closely. No. Not possible. She couldn't be that boy dressed up. After all my years as a transvestite, I can usually spet an impostor a mile away. A friend called her and she disappeared into the supper crowd.

But she came back another time and we talked more. She refreshed my memory. Three years before I'd worked at "Maxims," a cabaret at Nice, located over the "Whisky a Gozo," The latter is a drinking spot with continuous music in the background, controlled by an electrician, a high-fi specialist. The elec-

ground, controlled by an electricians, a high-fi specialist. The electrician, that year, was a very pleasant young man who seemed interested in our show. He came backstage one day to see me, asking if there was any possibility of working with the Carroused troups. I todd him that, after all, it wasn't

ger. That was the last I'd heard of the young man.

Boy Wos Girl

Bay Was Girl

And here, face to face with me in
Casablanca, was the very same
person. The pretty redbead girl
was none other than that electrican from the "White a Coop" at

"How come?" I saked.
"I've had an operation," she

th answered.

questions. She was terribly reserved, at first, almost sanoyed. She was very timid. But after a few more drinks, I dared to return to the subject.

"Come to my dressing room and let me see," I implored.

She refused, blushing, I insisted. Finally she gave in and came backstage. In spite of her emborrasstage. In spite of her emborrass-

I ment, she lifted her skirt, slipped off her panties.

One glance was enough. Unless I was dreaming, she was a girl's Back at the hetel later, I couldn't sleep a wink.

Afterwards, I made a point of

inviting her to my table. Our friendship grew. We planned to go to the beach together one after-

to the beach together one afti on.





felt the first stirrings to be a transvestist. my life, I married Francis Bonnet, I was a woman felt

By COCCINELLE

The Boy Who Became One of the World's Most Glamorous Gir

She awoke that morning, early,

all set to switch from boy to girlie!





but the thrill I felt vanished later when that oh. se gergeous stor. Debbie Reynolds, come to see me.

## 'It was a horrible awakening for me. **M**y

## pains resembled those of birth!"

She called for me in her car and we headed for a deserted inlet on the Moroccan coast Once there. I confessed my doubts to her. I begged her to let me see again. Graciously, she consented. even touched her. No. No doubt was possible. She WAS a woman,

What a Revelation

My head whirled I hombarded her story, a story rather like mine. she'd heard people talk about a and gynecological hospital where a brillient surgeon, a Dr. Buroux. veloped a theory. By laboratory tests, through trial and error, he

male monkey into a female The former "Whisky a Gogo" Extremely reluctant at first, the surgeon finally agreed to risk the sponsibility in advance. He could guarantee nothing. But before my eves was the conclusive evidence decided. I, too, would be operated

My redheaded friend went with me to are the surgeon. The doctor examined me, weighed the possibilities. Finally, he accepted in possibility of accident in such an

We talked price, too. It was excontracts I had to fulfill for the Carrousel. So we set a tentative Back in Paris, I 'pondered the pros and cons. Conscientiously. I discussed it with my friends. In motives. But they insisted on the moral and physical risks I'd be running. I talked at length with

Robert, After all, I boned to spend I wrote Dr. Buroux, confirming our date. The time came, and I at the clinic as expected. I went to sleep in a small room, sparkling fering horribly But I was a mo-

How It Was Dane When Dr. Buroux approached the floodlighted operating table, he had before him an operating field carefully delineated by



Johnson of 'Music Man' fame, Norma Sykes—you know her as Sabrina—was another visitor to the club I starred in.



The inter-ention had been meticulously prepared before-hand. Laborestory examinations, analysis. X-ray from every analysis, X-ray from every sized them with careful attention. He had talked to me at length- 7d todd him about my life, and the sections that constituted my exceptional case. Becume of professional ethics, he had first to convince himself that the open constitution of the contract of

compresses: roughly speaking

the lower abdomen.

So now, an assistant handed him the first instrument. Taking the male organ, he slit it length-wise and removed the unnecessary parts. Isolating the urella, he placed it where it would have been, if Nature hadn't erred. Forming an opening, he anchored it, then cut off the useless

Next, taking the organ he'd slit open, he sewed it up, and turned it as one turns a sock or glove finger, inside out. He placed the resulting cylinder where it would exist in a normal female, attached to the wall with catgut which would eventually disappear. To avoid any accident or deformation, he inserted a metal plug, the shape of a candle. During the next two weeks, it would gradually be rotated (after an injection of oil, of course) to prevent the metal from stelking to the skin. This way the graft would take perfectly.

way me grant voum take perfeedly.

The rest of the operation was like ordinary plastic surgery.

With the male gland skin, he normalized the external area of the operating field. He created folds, mineur and majeur which blind Nature had thoughtlessly forgotten and which, later on, developed normal sensitivity. In fact, everything became normal

fact, everything became normal in about a month. Now the operation was finished, except for the usual antiseptic and pain killing precautions. I was wheeled back to my

It was a horrible awakening for me. I was feverish, obliged to lie flat on my back without budging an inch, so as not to displace the metal plug during the first few days. If I'd had the strength, I think I'd have jumped out of the window. My pains, it seems, resembled those of a woman about to give birth. Slowly, the apony leasured.
There were still a few bad moments when this surgeon and his autistic control one, injury and the still a still a still a still a still a property. Then, one day, they took the lang sut. I felt liberated, Africa came the removal of certain stitches, assuching one fears decastfully, in advance, but which lasts only a necond. Finally convalues on the still a still a

This is the story of my operation. My body has done the rest. Take for instance, my chest. Beface, I had followed on intensive female hormone treatment, resulting in beautiful breats. But they had to be maintained by honoter about. Since my operation, there has been no further mod. De Bearout had predicted

as much.
"You won't secrete any more male hormones," the doctor told me. "You so longer have male glands. And your fernale hormones—your whole life proves how strong they already were—will, definitively become dominant now. Your breasts should stay firm and round."

And he was right. It was the same, locally. For about a year (Continued on page 46)

## More About COCCINELLE

(Continued From Page 21

and a half after the operation. I had to use a rather greasy pommade at night, if necessary. But no longer. My organism has become entirely fernishe. The latent lubricating glands have taken over and function normally. As do all the thousands of tiny nerve ends

and Bood wearls which permit natural armitivity.

I must even admit that, one or two days a month, I feel weary, heavy, somewhat congested. No other symptoms, of course, as I can't have children. But it proves that Dr. Burcus's finite only cerrected a technical organic error of Nature, reestablished a normal equilibrium in my body. He completed medicatify the metamorpholeted medicatify the metamorpho-

of Nature, reestablished a normal equilibrium in my body. He completed medically the metamorphosis that I'd begun, all on my own and as it were by instinct—as soon as I was old enough to think. Back in Paris, I told Robert all

Back in Paris, I told Robert all about the operation. He listened. Then, a certain evening I knew my convalencence was over. No more pains. My tissues completely healed. The terribly important moment was at head. After four

years of living with Robert, in a somewhat equivocal situation, suddenly I felt like a young girl about to be married. The lights were off. I was frightened. It was truly my nuptial night. Somehow, with one corner of my brain, I couldn't help but noticing Robert's unexpected roughness. Or

was he, perhaps . . . uneasy?
"What is the matter, Robert?"
I asked.
Brutally, he replied. "Frankly,
I'm no longer interested. Girk?
There are millions of them on earth, each prettier and more experienced than the next one.
Frankly. this way, it's no longer

a mistake."
My world collapsed. So this was
the result of all that I'd desired,
done suffered.

I became desperate. I began to act like some of the girls of whom I'd always disapproved. I no longer resisted some of the handsome lads who'd importuned me before without success. At their houses, of course, because Robert

I sullenly refused to leave mine.
Ten? Twenty? Perhaps I exagger-

But I had to get hold of myself.

But I had to get hold of myself.

over From then ce, I lived in a whiteoall pool of shows, galas, dinner and
ends supers, and road tous, and road tous
in Turin I met Line Renaud, the
well-known French IV, radio and
no or
music hall singer. At the Afferi
eary, Theatre, I was what's known in
No
France cas the vedetre americaine,
as I that is, I closed the first half of

well-known French IV, ridio and make hall singer. At the Albert make the control of the control

If I'm ever is trouble, I'm sure
Life would help and advise and
Life would help and advise and
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y leader, often dise at my place in
Paris. And for invests me to their
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the French film director, and his
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in public but so marveleasly withy among infinites. Yes, Line and I are good friends. Thunks to the Alfier! Theatre in Turin.
Italian men are certainly not timid. They walk right up to women in the street, pay them compliments. On my first visit, it so upset me, that I didn't dere go

upset ms, that I didn't dare go out alone. I had friends call for me. Something else surprised me. Italian men are always in a group—so different from Frenchmen, or may others, for that matter. They're never alone with you, upon that lasts a couple of meets or a work of weeks or a couple of meets. No, when they are in an adventurous mood, they're always in a groun.



This photo holds paignant memories for me. It was taken just before Charles Trenet was in a crash.

During my trip to Italy, my first film was being shown: Europe By Might. Blastelt, the director, did an excellent job, assembling the best most-ball and 
cabaret numbers from big cities 
throughout western Europe. I'd 
had the honor to be included, doing my Paris Carrouast number. 
In front of the Italian cinemas.

ing my Paris Carrestel immers,
In front of the Italian cinemas,
the marquees and posters displayed my anne and featured me
se the leading star?
Finally, my tour of Italy ended.
With a certain sadness, I flew back
to Paris. Back to an inevitable
break with Robert. Back to ser-

break with Robert Back to sevceral months of an emotionally upset life, to moments when I asked myself, "Am I on the wrong road? Have I taken a wrong turning?" Then one day, Kiki Moustic introduced one of her friends, A tail good-locking lad with wavy hale and resulte features. Sweet, kind.

rather timid. A led who hadn't his path in life. He'd tried his was a good photographer. Little by little, this pleasant lad

life. Then, the most important, It was easy to go out with Francis. He let me be myself. He icalous. He was always there the Broche d'Or in Paris, I was very B.B., in a superbly low-cut There was complete silence. Then

a whisper passed from table to table: "It IS her . . . yea." Impertuable, I ordered my dinner. Then, ten minutes later in by Sacha Distel, B.B. herself ute, then she burst out laughing After all, next to her I was but a pale copy. Brigitte's always been

have helped me. One of the nicest. is marvelous Marlene Dietrich, I made her acquaintance in my fa-Azur, and we've seen each other often since. If I'd been free, it

At the Carrousel, all the big stars turn un There is never a friends. That's the way I got to know Anita Ekberg, before she had such a big success in Dolor Vita. She was a bit crazy - not and madly in love with him the next-but adorable as could be. I

One unforgettable night at the

two great comics. Bob Hope and Fernandel, when they were shooting a film together in Paris. I laughed until I cried. Bob Hope

Carrousel took place when the celebrated American baseball player, Joe DiMaggio, Marilyn We couldn't exchange three words. of course, because of language. But I think he was quite amused. I was in my Marilyn Monroe

Soon I was offered a contract to tour Australia. I had to accept immediately, or not at all. I de-

on the beam An army of journalists, radio reporters, and cameramen was on hand. It wasn't lone before I learned the reason. In 1999. Australia was still marked by made-in-Rogland ouritanism. A strip-tesse hadn't vet

within the law, they stood still on a revolving stage, not speaking, the slightest gesture. When Gordon learned that my

tease, he concerted a Machiavelian engagement to the proper authorities and described the numbers in the show. At the mere sound of "strip-tease," the authorities acreamed. Then Lee let loose his secret weapon, "But it's not a man. You can verify that in his

The poor Sydney officials! What So little Coccinelle (ladybind) flew in from Peris to open a new

My famous strip-tease was performed on a bed, surrounded by my chorus girls. My closing number was a frenzied Charleston, in a short dress with fringe, swinging wildly. I also were a yard-long feather box, and a very 1925 wie I went on twice nightly, at seven and eleven, except on Sundays. The hours being more reasonable than in Europe, I could lead an almost normal life in Sydney, So. latial Rex Hotel, I rented a fur-





nished apartment for Francis and me. Typically Americas, there was everything from a "fridge" to TV, even a washing machine-So I lived a la bourgeoise, doing the cooking and washing, like almost any wife. And I had time to

appreciate Francis, his kindness, patience and affection.
Right from the start, there were advantages that hadder existed with Robert. First, and most important, I really was a woman or start, and the start of the

a star, when he wasn't.

Also, let's admit it, I am a b
of a martinet. The professional it
between Francis and me, no matte
how theoretical, was to my ac
vantage. During our three month
in Australia—I could do exact

in Australia—I could do exactly as I pleased.
Shortly after eaching Australia, Lee Gordon Jaunched me on a whit/Awind of dinners and parties. One of those evenings I tiset Sabrina, the English strett, a publicity wooder whose caver is entirely built on a chest a la Jayre Mansafield. ... multiplied by three. Mossumentall When Practice descriptions with her he had to shoot description.

to make himself beard, he was that far away! Sabrina . . . Herenm. Another typical show business story. I thought she was a good friend. One day, while shopping in a big

One day, while shopping in a big store. I discovered some maveless stress imported from Austria. I bought some, wife if out, asset that could be a superior of the country of the stage outsit. That evening, I begpend to meetics in it to Sabrian. When I went to the shop next day to place my order, ratt— would you believe it? Not a smidge left. Sabrina had got three before as and bought out the stock. Fortunately, the charming owner reardered more for me and had it. When my Augustalius tar, was prise present—a return via the Pacific, with an eight-day, suptuous vacation in Hawwii. Off on the wings of a plane, arsized of Hawaii and weild I'm

Ort on the wengs of a plane, arrival at Hawaii and, verial Tm Installed in a grand hotel on marvcloss Walkitk Beach. What a small world, was my not very original reaction. I didn't know how truly I spoke. No somer was I stretched out on the golden send, than an American woman approached me. "You're Coccinelle (lietybird).

She flaunted the Paris Carrousel program before my astonished eyes. She'd been there only forty eight hours before! Flying really

I met bits of pleasant people through her. But I must have scandelized them on the Hawaian benches. I was absolutely the only woman wearing a Ferneth bikini, the timiest, most revealing one! Plans time cause too soon, Honolula, San Frantisco, Kansaa City,

shopping.

In New York again I met the American weenan of Walkiki beach, She took me to the Club Sh, in Gerenvich Village, I was wirmly received and photographed with the entertainers. I saw the show. I must admit the stage, seenery and costumes are ultramodern. But the settles year door.

momers, and the standards, come up to French standards. They are too obviously men. Make-up too crude, voices too rauceus. But they are very talented. They sing, and above sill, they dance marvelously. But I still prefer my good old Paris Carrouse!

Before long, we were back in Paris, Home sealn!

Before long, we were back in paris, Home again? What a life I had, I have finally gotten everything I have hoped for—even dear, gentle Francis. We were macried on March 20, 1962 at 8t. John Church in Montmarte —often referred to by American tourists as the "Presch Little

you believe it? Not a smidge left.

Church Acound the Conser."

Sherina had got three before me
and hought out the stock. Fortunsuppose it is natural, since my
and bought out the stock. Fortunsuppose it is natural, since my
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Suppose it is natural travestime.

Suppose it is natural, since my
suppose it is natural travestime.

The fortune is natural

The fortu

the room, chatting with acquaintances. I'll advise them about the menu, help them choose wines. The name of my new place? But that's obvious "CHEZ COCCIN-And nothing would please me

## of Chez. Tattle-Tape

More About

lieve I had seven pieces of luggage to carry back the loot. brown alligator suitcase), this

A. No. sec. that's why I was smart He didn't pay me for my time and all the travelling I had to I like sex, sure, but fair is fair department store in Managua -where they spoke English and ute I walked in with two bodyguards. They charged it without have to sign for it.

Q. But why did you decide to taking a sightnesing tour of the or the big cattle they breed there. I felt I'd had it, so I told

Q. How did be take it? A He was approve He said that after all the trouble he had bringing me first to Miami and

bean to Managua, I was un-Q. What did you do then? A. I told him he'd invited me: I didn't ask him. But I realized longer and he ever got tired of

me I'd end up in a Nicaraguan Q. What did you say?

A. First I told him that my morb. er was ill and we didn't know whether she had to go to a

when you decide to visit France Americans are so courageous, so

So, the next time you stop in

Paris, look up Coccinelle. She (only she, now) will be either at

mental institution or not? A. He looked at me strangely Then he asked why didn't I that he never saked me, and anyway, it's not the kind of

thing you like to discuss with some man you are trying to

A And how! He was so sympathetic, he sent a package to the plane (a commercial airline) for my mother. It was a fillgreed silver beacelet made by meetigus and earrings to match It was thoughtful. I still went them - I'm mad for earrings.

Get back to the story, please A. One other thing, while I cried when I told him about my mother. I said he didn't have to wouldn't, so what the hell).

Was it as easy as that? A. Yes (here, let me fix you another Martini). He promised that my fee would be doubled

when I returned-but I should prepare to stay for a long time -and bring plenty of clothes Q. Did you take off right away? A. All I took off right away was my clothes. His farewell scene was as good an Academa We made love then and there on a white persian rug with

those elephant hardwints on it Did those two guys watch

BEST ANDRESS DESCRIPTION DESCRIPTION THE DOUBLE TO SEE AND SEE OF YOU BEIN

THE CAYFUNG OF STREET BY SHIPS SHIPS AND PUBLISHED ITCH in Women

Relieved like Magic

DON'T SHOOT

