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Transsexual Dies After Shooting; Hairdresser Operated Ms. Sid's

BIRMINGHAM — A motel operator was charged with first degree murder in the shotgun slaying of a 6'5" hairdresser who had undergone a sex change from man to woman.

Jody Susan Ford, 41, formerly Sidney Ford, was shot in the chest in front of a motel in suburban Vestavia Hills.

Lt. Joe Stewart of Vestavia Hills said Larry Maddox, 26, the motel owner, and son of the man who owns the franchise, was placed in the Jefferson County Jail without bond.

"The best we've been able to determine thus far is that the shooting resulted from a dispute," Stewart said, but he declined to give the nature of the trouble.

Ford, a hairdresser, operated "Mr. SID's" until his operation in 1973 and then he changed the name to "Ms. SID's." He also changed his name to Jody Susan Ford.

He had said in an interview that he long had wanted to be a woman and had been arrested numerous times for dressing as one. Jody challenged the Birmingham ordinance and helped legalize crossdressing in that city.

Ford, a native of Nashville, had played basketball at David Lipscomb College, and later played semi-pro football.

Jody Ford was a long-time acquaintance of DRAG. She had been a regular on the Lee G. Brewster annual tour to Mardi Gras, and has been featured in several photo layouts.



Jockey Was a Woman

Australian jockey, Bill Smith, a lifetime seaman, minor jockey and in retirement horse trainer, died recently.

But it was at Smith's death that a life-hidden secret became known, when his obituary was retitled "Wilhelmina Smith."

"Bill" Smith had managed to keep his true sex secret throughout most of "his" life, including those periods when "he" dressed with the other male jockeys in their locker rooms.

Most of the people of "Bill's" home town remember him as a hard drinking and strong swearing old roustabout.

It is believed that only one friend knew "Bill's" true identity, but kept the secret out of respect. It was only during examinations when Bill faced his final illness that the years of male impersonation surfaced.

Transsexual Wins Job Security But Leaves Town Anyway

Raymond P. Romo had worked 14 years in the same job in San Antonio before completing his sex change operation. Now known as Elisa RaChell Romo, she was welcomed back to her job with open arms by her employer. "(S)He was a good worker, highly efficient, and nothing has changed at all," quoted his supervisor, Mr. Erwin Seeman.

Ms. Romo responded: "My associates have been most understanding and considerate. But I am planning a move to Houston to start a new life."

It seems that Elisa leaves behind a wife and son and worries how her continued presence will affect them. "Some people in this world, unlike my co-workers here, simply are not ready to accept transsexuals."