

# Lived 25 Years As Girl Earl Morland Happy In New Life As Man

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(Residents of Paisley about three or four decades ago will recall the Alex Morland family, who lived north of Paisley, near Rae's bridge, then in Brant Township. Mr. Morland was employed with the Paisley Creamery. The older members of the family attended school in Paisley.

(One of the younger members of the Morland family is the principal of a copyright story published last Friday in The London Free Press, through whose kind permission the story is reprinted in The Advocate.)

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Earl Morland, who lived as Pearl Morland for 25 years until doctors discovered he had been raised in the wrong sex, reports "it hasn't been too difficult" to readjust himself.

## Much to Learn

The Goderich area resident has to learn how to wear men's clothing, lead instead of follow while dancing and forget a habit he had of reaching for a bobby pin as a scratcher whenever his ears itched.

"Otherwise," he said, "I feel better and happier now than ever, because I'm really living under the right sex and don't have to worry about that innermost secret fear that haunted me all my life.

"I have been a man in reality all my life. I never was a woman. However, I have been in society as a man for only two months and it's a wonderful relief to know I am finally where I belong. I have had several dates and have gone dancing and I hope some day to marry. When and if I become a father, I'll be the happiest man in the world."

## Health Excellent

Earl told his story to this reporter in an exclusive interview, to clear the air about his actual condition and to possibly obtain assistance in finding a suitable job. Although he is in excellent health and has considerable strength, he said he does not want to toil at any arduous laboring job right off the bat.

"Rather," he said, "I think I would like to sell cars or sports-goods or something like that. Or I might like to drive or chauffeur somebody. I always have liked driving."

Since his discharge from a London hospital Easter Sunday, for the last of several operations to prepare him for his proper place in life, Earl has had one job—a three-week stint at gardening and landscaping for a city factory.

## Was Kitchen Maid

During his 25 years as a girl, woman and wife, he worked as a kitchen maid in a hospital, as a spinner in a textile plant, and as a plate inspector in a pen factory.

"But none of the jobs really appeals to me," he said. "I liked my pen factory job best. However, I received only women's wages then, and now that I'm a man I just don't know what to pursue."

Earl, who stands about five feet six inches and weighs 170 pounds, completed Grade IX or first form high school. A good looking young man, he is gifted with an extremely friendly personality.

"I think I'm just about over the immediate shyness I felt," he said. "I enjoy meeting people now, even friends who knew me as Pearl, and everyone has been wonderful to me. I am now 26."

Earl chose London to start his new life because of a fondness he always had for the city and also because he has three brothers and a sister living here. He is staying with his married sister.

Everything is working out well and it really hasn't been too difficult.

How was the tragic mistake made?

"It happened on the cold and stormy night of February 1, 1930," Earl related. "I was brought into this world by a doctor from Paisley on the six concession of Bruce Township in Bruce County. Because of a slight deformity it was hard to tell whether I was a boy or a girl. The doctor decided I was a girl, my parents called me a girl, and a girl I was for 25 years."

"When I was seven my brother Wallace and sister Grace and I were out playing tag when I fell and broke my arm. They couldn't seem to do anything with it at the Kincardine General Hospital and I was advised to go to the children's hospital in London.

"This is where I first heard doctors talking about me to my mother. I started to cry, saying that I still wanted to be a girl, and my mother assured me that I was and would always be one."

## No Blame on Parents

"I want it understood that I don't blame either of my parents. They had raised eight children before me, and had no reason to believe there had been a mistake."

"After I left the hospital and returned home, everything that was said there was forgotten. I carried on playing with girls and really thinking again that I was a girl, although I was rougher and stronger than most girls. I was very lucky in school and got along fairly well. I quit when I was 15 and went to work in the factory for approximately eight years."

"Feeling that I was getting into a rut, not having seen much of the county, I left and went to work in a hospital in London. I was the only one of the family

not married by that time, and my father was too ill to run the farm alone, so he sold it and moved to a house in Kincardine where I joined them. They were only there a couple of weeks when my father passed away. That left mother and me alone."

## Joined Girls' Team

"About six months after my father died the manager of the Goderich girls' softball team asked me to go to Goderich to play ball for him. He had a job for me and I went in 1952. After the ball season was over and we had won the Western Ontario championship I worked in a factory there during the winter. I played ball again in 1953 when we won the championship for the second time. Work was getting scarce, however, and I returned to London to work at the same hospital."

"I was there only a few months when I went back to Goderich to play ball again, and in that same

year I got married. I started to work at a new plant built in Goderich, and I was still working there on December 17 when I entered hospital for my first operation. After the baseball season was over I had started to notice that the hair on my face was getting heavier. I mentioned it to my husband and he suggested I consult a doctor. I took time off work and consulted a doctor, who called in a colleague and after several appointments decided on the operation."

## Difficult Break

"You will never realize how hard it was for me to pull out and leave my job, my ex-husband and friends to start a new life. All of these persons were exceptionally good to me during my time in Goderich."

"The doctors and nurses at the hospital were wonderful, too. The Goderich softball team sent me a check. The curling club sent a card, and all kinds of friends

sent greetings and flowers. I don't think I have lost any of my former friends."

"I left the hospital on January 3, 1956, and frankly I was quite shy at meeting people for a while,

but soon got over it. I returned to the hospital on March 11 for three weeks and was released on Easter Sunday. I started taking out girls then and felt right at home doing it. I had a lot of fun."

# Knox Church Damaged By Fire After Lightning Hit Building Monday Night

During the height of Monday night's severe electrical and rain storm, lightning struck Knox United Church on Goldie Street, and set fire to the frame woodshed at the rear of the structure. The bolt hit the corner of the shed, setting it on fire, and then punched a small hole right through the brick wall of the church, knocking small fragments of mortar and plaster on to the floor of the auditorium.

The fire was seen almost immediately by the church minister Rev. E. S. Linstead, who was watching the storm from a window of the manse, 300 feet east of the church. The fire brigade responded to the alarm, and although hindered in their efforts to lay hose lines by the driving downpour, were able to get two high-pressure streams of water playing on the blazing shed, and within 30 minutes, the last spark was extinguished.

Only the fact that the alarm was given so quickly, and that the firemen responded so promptly, saved the 70-year-old church from total or partial destruction. And while the heavy rain was of hindrance to the firemen in laying hose, it was of immeasurable help in slowing the spread of the flames. When the first line of hose began throwing water, the woodshed was a roaring mass of leaping flame which was threatening to get in to the organ loft to which the shed was attached. Flames did break out on the wall and floor of the organ motor room, but were extinguished within seconds. The cornice of the organ loft, high above the shed, also caught fire, but was similarly put out very quickly. The most dangerous threat to the safety of the church developed when the fire began to eat into the basement kitchen through the heavy door opening into the woodshed. Firemen entered the basement and with a single line of hose, were able to stop the encroaching blaze without any great trouble.

Total damage to the building and contents will probably amount to between \$2,000 and \$2,500. The woodshed is a total loss. Damage to the pipe organ, confined to the motor and pump room, was light, with some of the lead air piping and a portion of the electric wiring having been heat and water damaged.