

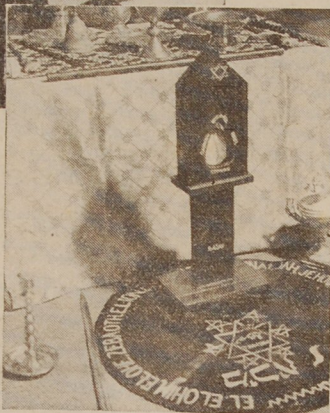
HORROR 'WEDDING' IN A WITCHES TEMPLE

The People, Dec. 5th, 1965.



● Maxine Morris is 18 and Alex Sanders is 39. Yet they are to be "married" in a witchcraft ceremony which every church will condemn.

● The scene will be their witchcraft "altar" (right). Says Maxine: "Witchcraft is the only true religion."



MAXINE MORRIS is blonde, slim and just 18. And on Wednesday, she will give herself to a man old enough to be her father.

Not in a church of the Roman Catholic faith, in which she was educated at a convent. Not in any church recognised by Christians. Not even in a civil contract recognised by any law in the world.

She will become the "bride" of 39-year-old Alex Sanders—in the name of witchcraft.

Sanders is a "High Priest" of the witch cult. He rules over covens of witches who practise their rites in the nude at the time of the full moon—and all that jazz.

But when he takes a young girl to his profane "altar" and makes her his own—this, I say, is carrying the cat-and-broomstick game too far.

Witches from all parts of the country will be present at the 30-minute ceremony which, the devotees proudly claim, is the first witchcraft wedding in this country for 200 years.

A flat on the outskirts of Manchester has been converted into a temple. Black candles will burn on the witches' altar. The air will be heavy with incense. . . .

Blazing

And into this vile mockery of a marriage ceremony will step little Maxine, naked under a white wedding dress that Sanders has made for her.

He will be dressed in rich golden robes, with a heavy metal crown.

During the ceremony they will leap together through the flames from a blazing cauldron. Their hands will be fastened together with silken cord and another of the witches will cut their arms to mix their blood.

Sanders will slip a gold ring on the finger of his "bride."

If you think that it's all a bit of harmless hocus-pocus, let me assure you that Maxine and Sanders say they are determined to start a family as soon as possible.

And the final unsavoury touch to the whole business is that it is only 13 days since the death of Maxine's mother — who vigorously opposed her daughter's association with Sanders and his witchcraft friends.

Power

Let me tell you about the strange betrothal of Sanders and Maxine — the girl he made his witch "Queen."

Sanders, who lives in a flat in Egerton Road North, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, claims to have independent means and to be the head of more than 100 witches — many of them in their teens — in the Manchester area.

He claims to have been initiated as a witch by his grandmother at the age of seven. Since then he has toured the country speaking on witchcraft and repeating

Maxine, 18, will mix blood with a 'High Priest'

developing between the girl and Sanders. She forbade her ever to see Sanders again.

A week later Sanders initiated Maxine as a member of one of his covens and only ten days after that he declared her Queen of the coven.

That meant she had to perform all the secret ceremonies naked with him in a circle of other witches.

For a year Maxine's mother did not know where she was spending her time. But then she died—and the couple planned their "wedding" ceremony.

As Maxine packed for her honeymoon she told me: "I know my mother would be terribly upset, but I am in love with Alex and we want to spend the rest of our lives together."

"He has made a tremendous difference to my life. He has such fantastic powers. He even forecast the date of my mother's death although she was perfectly well at the time. He was only one day out."

Daggers

"I have no wish for a wedding in church. Witchcraft is the only true religion."

The walls of Sanders' flat are covered with daggers, swords and whips. Over the fireplace is a heavy brass plate engraved with the words: "Do what thou wilt is the only true law."

He told me: "Maxine and I are in love and we are to be married exactly the same way as any other couple in love."

"The only difference is that we have renounced all other faiths and beliefs for witchcraft. How could we possibly be married in any other faith but our own?"

"Witchcraft was strong in this country thousands of years before any other religion was even thought of and it will be strong when all other faiths have finished."

"Maxine and I are hoping that we shall be blessed with a child as soon as possible and we shall raise special powers to bring this about. Then we may have a civil marriage for the sake of the child."

The "wedding ceremony" — inside a black circle, of course — will be performed by 22-year-old Paul King, a devoted disciple of the cult,

TEMPLE

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He claims to have been initiated as a witch by his grandmother at the age of seven. Since then he has toured the country speaking on witchcraft and appeared on TV several times.

He claims that witchcraft is the only true religion which gives him power to heal—or to kill by the pronouncement of a ritual curse.

He met Maxine when she was living with her mother at their flat in Hill Crescent, Blackley, Manchester. Soon he became a regular visitor.

When Maxine was 17 her mother realised that there was more than friendship

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developing between the girl and Sanders. She forbade her ever to see Sanders again.

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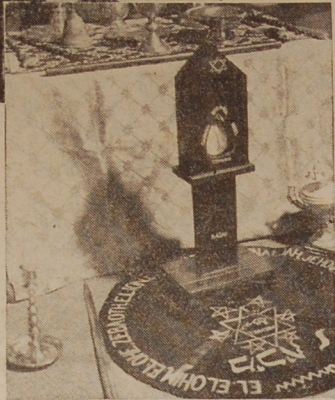
But my advice to him is: *Refuse to have anything to do with this ritual farce.*

Maxine, perhaps, is too immature to realise the stupidity of the step she is taking.

But Sanders should stick to newts' eyes and frogs' toes and leave young girls out of his ceremonies.

And I'm prepared to accept receipt of his ritual curse!

Peter Forbes



Morris is 18 and Sanders is 39. Yet they are "married" in a ceremony which the church will condemn. Maxine will be their "bride" (left). Sanders: "Witchcraft is the true religion."