

THE WITCHES' WEDDING

IN A MANCHESTER
SUBURB, A
QUEEN MARRIES

A HIGH PRIEST

"The Sun". Dec 8th, 1965.

THEY called it a witches' wedding, and considering the ceremony took place in a house in the homely Manchester suburb of Didsbury, they managed to sustain a witches' atmosphere rather well.

The bride was called Maxine Morris. She is 18, went to a convent, is known as queen of her witches' coven, and understandably gets a lot of attention from the Sunday papers.

The groom was Mr. Alex Sanders, who is 39, is high priest of three covens, and has been on television several times.

The ceremony was held in the lounge of the home of a friend of the couple. At one end of the room was a low black altar covered in red cloth and containing brass cups, wine, daggers and a whip.

Maxine was wearing a white silk dress, made by Mr. Sanders. He wore a gold silk robe and hood and had jewelled rings on his fingers.

CIRCLE

Both, they let it be known, were naked underneath.

Incense burned as the couple stepped into a white rope circle surrounded by lighted black candles. They knelt in front of the altar to receive a blessing from Mr. Paul King, a 22-year-old office worker, who is elder of the coven.

Two witches in hooded robes bound the couple's arms to-

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gether and Mr. King made a small cut in each arm to mix their blood.

Then Mr. Sanders slipped a ring on Miss Morris's finger and the couple were toasted in red wine.

It was, the witches said, the first witch wedding to be held in Britain for nearly 200 years.

Mr. Sanders said: "The witchcraft handfasting is the oldest wedding ceremony in the world—far older than any church wedding.

"Our covens operate in Manchester and North Cheshire and we perform all our ceremonies naked but there are no orgies."

Miss Morris said: "Alex and I are very much in love."

They said that if they had a child they would probably get married in a register office "for the child's sake."

They are very respectable witches in Manchester.



At the witches' altar, Mr. Sanders and Miss Morris

CHES' WEDDING ..

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The marriage is sealed in blood

