

syllable names of musical sound. Undoubtedly, the most interesting changes are those from one Hebrew name to another. Such account for a very high proportion of the transformations. Most people in this category are desirous of changing the typically Oriental names to "Ashkenazi" appellations. Thus Rami is changed to Dan or Rami; Yehye to Yechiel; Tefucha to Nurith and Mazal to Tamar. "Mizrachi" the most common "Oriental" name is changed to Harel, or Erez, or Hadar, or Mazor, or Alon.

Some classical names are changed for more modern ones. Thus Yehuda may be changed for Chen, Shoshana for Merab, Cohen for Ofir, Hannah for Zella, Naftali for Hermon or Esther for Leora.

Occasionally an "outmoded" name is given a "modern" turn or tang. Thus Penina is changed to Pninit; Sarah to Sarit, Vered to Vardid. A girl with the double name of Ruth and Hannah combined hers into Ruhana.

Some people who think their surname may be confused with their first name add a prefix or a suffix. Thus, for example, Eliezer becomes Bar-Eliezer or Eliezri.

Entirely New Names

Apparently some people are fed up with the names given them at birth and prefer an entirely new one for a change. A certain Rachel, for example, changed hers to Shula; Yiftah found Hannanel more pleasing and Kinneret preferred to be called Carmella.

Some name changes are so strange that it is difficult even to guess the reason behind them. Why, for example, does Amnon prefer Arye or what is there in "Aharon" that there wasn't in "Meir" that preceded it, or what induced David to switch to

Dov? As for names given at birth, the marked tendency in modern Israel is to choose a name of pleasing sound, while now and again parents give their children names connected with some topical event such as Sinai, Atzmaut, Golan, Elath, etc. Of course, the custom of calling children after some departed ancestor is still common, despite the fact that some such names may sound "outmoded" in the ears of the present generation. Young parents faced with the problem of finding an attractive name for their offspring are now assisted by several name-books that have recently been brought out by enterprising publishers. —Reprinted from Canadian Jewish Chronicle Review.

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During Screen Gems' press-celebrity tour of Mexico City and Acapulco, our Mexican National Tourist Council guide said at one point, "In this country, we have some of the oldest synagogues in the world." That came as a complete surprise to many of us who thought that Mexico's main Jewish immigration actually began during and following Hitler's regime.

Our guide also advised that wealthy Jews started Mexico's pawnshop business, now operated solely by the government. He added, "We now have a large 'Yooish' population." That Spanish "Y" for "J" always tickles my funny bone.

The following Jewish executives and celebrities also joined the junket to help promote Screen Gems' new and renewed television series for the coming season: Robert V. Claver, executive producer of Here Come the Brides; Hugh Benson, executive producer of The Outcasts; Sidney Sheldon, executive producer of I Dream of Jeannie; Art Frankel, Screen Gems counsel; Charles Fries, vice president; Renee Valente, in charge of new talent; Mark Lenard, co-star of the new series, Here Come the Brides; and Peter Kastner, co-star of another new series, The Ugliest Girl in Town, being filmed in London.

Due to the serious illness of her father, Maurice Mitrani, Shelley Morrison, a Sephardic Jew who portrays Sister Sixto in The Flying Nun, was unable to join us. Am sorry to report that Mr. Mitrani passed away, ironically on the first day that Shelley reported to the studio for her initial scenes in the new season schedule. Until then, she had remained constantly at her father's side during his nine-months illness.

Mark Lenard, of Here Come the Brides, is a native Chicagoan who cut himself a big slice of theatre acclaim in New York. Lenard's family were active members of a small synagogue in South Haven, Michigan. He remembers walking many miles from the countryside to attend Saturday morning services.

Mark's wife is Lebanese. Asked if he, as a Jew, gets along with her, he replied, "Well, she's only half Lebanese."

Peter Kastner is a native of Toronto. If his series, the unusually plotted The Ugliest Girl in Town, in which he passes himself off as a girl, becomes popular, Kastner undoubtedly will follow in the footsteps of Lorne Greene (Bonanza) and become Toronto's No. 2 favorite son.

The complete roster of Screen Gems stars in our Good Neighbor Starlight included: (Here Come the Brides) Robert Brown, Mark Lenard, Joan Blondell, Bridget Hanley, Bobby Sherman and David Soul; (The Outcasts) Don Murray and Otis Young; (Ugliest Girl in Town) Peter Kastner and Jenny Till; (Bewitched) Agnes Moorehead, David White and Kasey Rogers; (I Dream of Jeannie) Barbara Eden, Larry Hagman, Bill Daily, Hayden Rorke and Emaline Henry; (The Flying Nun) Sally Field, Alejandro Rey and Vito Scotti; and (Days of Our Lives) Macdonald Carey.

Some of our Christian friends must have thought it rather strange when Peter Kastner sang "Kimmeh a Chutim in Shortel" for me during breakfast, only a few hours after he had planned into Mexico City from the London location of his series.

Peter loves to sing Jewish songs. "My family was conservative," he said, "but at 12 I announced that I wanted an orthodox bar mitzvah. I think it was a reaction against the Beverly-Hills-Forest Hills type of community where I lived, with its reformed and conservative Jewry. My grandfather, Marcus Morgan, an orthodox Jew who is now 78, helped convince me."

Peter's parents — Martin and Rose Kastner — live in Toronto. Currently, Martin is translating from German to English two plays by Bertold Brecht, who wrote "The Threepenny Opera." Random House will publish.

Kastner's sister, Susan Kastner, 25, single, is a bylined entertainment reporter for the Toronto Daily Star, following a similar one-a-half year stint for the New York Post.

Said Peter, whose real name is Joshua Bernard Kastner, "My family is all alike. We're Jews at heart."

Sports highlight of the recent junket found three of our group testing the track in the almost-completed Olympic Stadium in Mexico City. David Soul, Sidney Sheldon and Art Frankel jogged around the track with slightly less than all-American performance.

Soul, who plays one of the brothers in the new series, Here Come the Brides, is much younger than Sheldon and Frankel so it was no surprise that he finished his lap well ahead of the others.

Frankel whopped Sheldon, who does better producing I Dream of Jeannie than he does on Olympic tracks.

In any event, the three tempted your pace to hurry to the bathroom, you wind up panting. Look for many of our athletes to pass out cold when they push themselves too hard. As for training in Tahoe and Nevada, forget it. They'd better quarter in Mexico City well before the October 12 opening ceremonies and learn how to survive the terrifyingly thin atmosphere.

As for me, I came home from Mexico City to tell my grandchildren that I — Barney Glazer — walked on the Olympic Stadium track, and I do mean walked!

Hasta luego and shalom.

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