

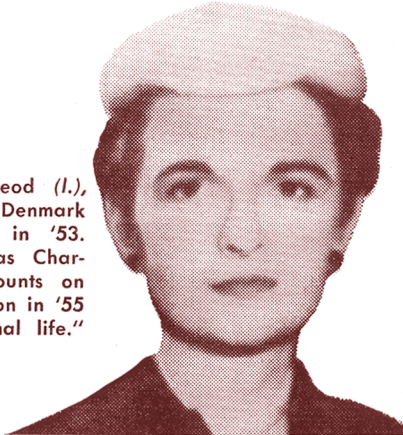
NEW SEX SWITCHES

Behind the Sensational Headlines Loom Unpleasant Medical Facts

Next to the recurrent hydrogen bomb headlines, reports of sex changes are becoming the most persistently startling world news. Latest U.S. case in point is Charles—Charlotte McLeod (*below*). But similar stories crop up elsewhere: In Teheran, surgeons help a 16-year-old girl turn into a soldier of the Shah. In London, a dashing fighter pilot and father readjusts to life as a sophisticated lady. In Naples, 13-year-old Adrianna becomes Andrew.

What are the facts behind these tales? How can a man turn into a woman, and to whom does this happen? PEOPLE TODAY herewith presents the latest authentic information about these secrecy-shrouded phenomena.

News reports generally avoid medical details and precise classification of sex changelings, but each case falls into one of the following groups. ➡



Charles McLeod (*l.*), 28, went to Denmark for surgery in '53. He's back as Charlotte (*r.*), counts on final operation in '55 for "a normal life."

Most Sex Changelings Keep It Quiet

True hermaphrodites. Normally, sex glands turn male or female early in the life of the embryo. But sometimes there's a mixup; the child develops some of the genital organs of both sexes. Before treatment, doctors weigh which sex predominates as well as the patient's upbringing. Then hormone doses and surgery make as good a man or woman as possible. (Two Turkish sisters, both borderline cases physically, were about to be operated on to make them more male when doctors found feminine mental traits predominated. Treatment therefor accentuated the feminine.)



Pseudohermaphrodites.

In some cases, sex glands may be properly male or female but the genital organs are so deformed that a boy is mistaken for a girl. An operation can make him more manly. But should the switch seem too difficult psychologically, surgeons try to fashion the best woman possible under the circumstances. In other cases, a disease of the adrenal glands causes excess output of

MAN INTO WOMAN: Ex-GI George Jorgensen had 6 operations, 2,000 hormone injections in Copenhagen, now is famous as Christine. In U.S., major sex-change surgery is illegal.

Most drastic new sex change: Car racer and RAF pilot Bob Cowell, 36. After 10-year marriage (and 2 daughters) he developed female characteristics. Doctors say "Roberta" now is a woman.



male hormones in girls. This fosters male characteristics (deep voice, beard, etc.). Cortisone treatment may help.

Transvestites. These are physically normal men and women whose trouble is psychological: an obscure but difficult-to-resist urge to dress in clothes of the opposite sex. It is more common in men than women. Transvestism, many psychiatrists believe, may be an unwholesome extension of "dressing-up" games of childhood, spurred by latent homosexuality. Like many mental disturbances, transvestism sometimes may be cured. Since Christine's case, some men keep asking doctors to make them women. Such tampering is forbidden by law everywhere in the U.S.

WOMAN INTO MAN: Dr. Forbes-Sempill, of Scotland, changed first name from Elizabeth to Ewen after medical treatment to establish masculinity. He may inherit a baronetcy.



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