

Are Johns Vanishing?

The idiosyncrasies of the present generation are being passed on to the next through the age-old custom of selecting names for offspring.

Children today are receiving quite a different set of names than those bestowed upon their parents and grandparents. And the names chosen, if ever researched fully, might reveal a lot about the quirks of those who today are 18-40 years old.

I suspect it has always been that way. A generation of Johns, Marys, Bills, Hankas, Janes, Toms, Sallies and Bens indicates the previous generation was either highly traditional or somewhat lacking in imagination.

Likewise, the names chosen today indicate not only a polished imagination but a striking break from the past. One could probably suggest that the weird names being bestowed upon infants these days are indicative of rebellious character, much like long hair, sideburns, bare feet, chest and belly, and the grainy dress.

BUT I DON'T think this holds true any more than was said that because you are named Sally that your papa is an arch conservative, a neo-Nazi or fascist.

Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

Politics are probably not an overwhelming factor in selecting names for kids unless the kid is christened Harbin, Franklin, Calvin, Adlai, Eleanor, Zachery, or Spino.

The origin of names, however, does not interest me as much as the observation that the origin might be changing. I suspect that the process of selection is different than in ages past.

One of the things which makes the selection process different, it seems, is our mass advertising culture. Walk into any bookstore or drugstore and you can find small booklets containing an alphabetical listing of suggested names for your children.

THESE "NAME GUIDES" are being used by married couples while selecting names for the child to be. And, of course, the guides pay no heed to the ancestral quirks of the reader. Parents who rely on guides seldom have already chosen to ignore family traditions.

The guide user, then, becomes more subjective because he is not bound by names given relatives. Instead, he relies on subjective factors such as his favorite movie and television stars, sports figures, favorites in literature, etc.

Examination of the names given today gives a hint some parents are also searching for notational sounds with a poetic ring. Listen to the sounds of such names as: Renee, Julie, Michelle, Deborah, Noel, Elaine, Paragloss, Heather, Wendy, Lance, Tina, and Lisa.

Correction Isn't Needed

FARMINGTON Township board meeting, Supervisor Curtis Hall declared this newspaper was in error for reporting the newly appointed electrical inspector had been a licensed electrician for only three years.

Supervisor Hall described the news story as erroneous and claimed Rex Jernigan, the appointee, had been an electrician since 1949.

The Farmington Enterprise & Observer did not make any claim about Jernigan's status as a licensed electrician but reported a claim from a news source.

For the record, public records indicate Jernigan was not granted a Journeyman's electrician license until Sept. 15, 1970.

Jernigan applied for a journeyman electrician's license May 15, 1967, but was refused one after failing to pass the written examination. He passed the examination four months later.

Jernigan's work experience is: apprentice wireman from 1943-48; journeyman wireman, 1950-52; and a journeyman wireman for one month in 1966.

But the biggest factor behind the New Name Era, I believe, is The Pill.

Parents planning on having five or more children can be reckless enough to name a couple children after relatives.

But the parent deciding on two or three children is in a predicament. Should names be picked the parents like or should family tradition dictate what titles are bestowed.

THE PROBLEM can be extremely difficult for the parents deciding on three children, for instance. Logic will tell us that the child to be either three children of the same sex or a one-two split.

Let me get personal for sake of example. Our determination on number of children desired varies from one to four depending upon the behavioral pattern of our only child.

Our only child is a daughter we named Bridgette because her father happened to think Bridgette Bradot is a particularly sexy girl. The particular spelling occurred only because we were under pressure from the author of the birth certificate and had to make a decision.

Frankly, we don't have any long list of preferred names for future girls. We should because my wife was one of three sisters and I had a brother and three sisters. If we have two more children, one is very likely to be a girl.

If my predictions come true, our family will have but one son to name. I don't have any special

aversion for sons or daughters, but knowing I will become a father of one or the other, thoughts must be given on the name business.

BEFORE GOING further, I ought to point out that your editor has no intentions of becoming a father again within the foreseeable future. That's not what motivated this column. So don't spread any rumors because it just ain't so.

But when the day arrives, if it does, that a son is born, a very difficult decision will be made. Reason for the difficulty stems from a family tradition of which I have become a vehicle.

My middle name happens to be Curtis because that is the middle name given my father, grandfather and great-grandfather. In each case, the bearer of the middle name Curtis was the oldest son in the family.

This tradition wasn't planned but it has developed to the point that our family has established a pattern has been noticed in the selection of middle names for all children.

If I give credence to the pattern, my first son would be named Franklin Curtis. But, there is the chance my first son may become our only son. It happens that my wife and I like the name Todd. We are willing to name son number two Todd Lewis, not assured child number three will be male.

wood creek farms

By ANNE M. PHILLIPS
MA 6-6335

Wood Creek had a bridge christening! The first one in all its history.

Paul Livingston, with Barbara's help, I'm sure, built a lovely rustic bridge over the creek in their back yard on New Bedford Drive. Upon completion they invited the near neighbors Jim and Barbara Capolongo, Gil and Evie Breimeister, Reggie and Jack Corsi, Helen Simons, plus assorted children, to come to its christening.

After a few brief speeches and some musical selections by the children, Rose Livingston cut the ribbon and "Little Mac" was officially open. Then Paul opened the champagne, the new bridge was toasted, its builder, the creek, and whatever.

The Brooklyn Bridge couldn't have received a better send off and it is thanks to Barbara Capolongo that I know of this delightful event.

Humble To Address Parents

FARMINGTON North Farmington Parents' Association will hold its first meeting of the school year Oct. 5, at 8 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Guest of honor will be former Principal Harold Humble who will relate some of his experiences as a principal of a high school in Kodjokanal, India where he has been serving for the past three years as a missionary educator.

An orientation program will acquaint parents with course offerings, the exchange student idea, the new law as it applies to school supplies, and disciplinary attitudes.

Students will describe extracurricular activities and there will be an opportunity for teachers, parents, and students to become better acquainted at refreshment time.

Other meetings already planned for the year will include Open House, on Nov. 17, a curriculum meeting Feb. 1, and one on student involvement April 6.

Township Police Rally To Family's Protection

EDITOR: I would publicly like to thank the Farmington Township police force, especially the two officers and the dispatcher, who rallied so quickly to my aid Friday morning, September 18.

At about 2:30 a.m. Friday, my wife and I were awakened

by our burglar alarm. Hector, who is our low-slung dog with an 18-inch neck.

Usually he remains quiet during the night but that night his loud barking awakened us and then we heard him in the snarling sounds of attack.

We have had thievery before so I called the police and told them I thought there was a prowler in my yard. The dispatcher told me to stay on the phone and that he would have two cars out right away.

While on the phone he asked me if I heard a motor running. I listened and told him that I did. He then told me to take a look out the front window to see if there was a car there. I looked, but saw none.

In about three or four minutes from the time I called, and while I was still on the phone, two Farmington Township police cars arrived. One followed tracks from a car that apparently had sped off from in front of my house and the other officer checked the premises. The officer who had trailed the car followed the trail until it was indistinguishable.

Not Original

Robert Burns said that he took down the words for the well-known song, "Auld Lang Syne," as he heard an old man sing them. But Burns is usually given credit for writing them.

The officers told me that they would keep an eye on my house and the neighborhood. If they would have caught the prowler, I'll bet he would have a good-sized nip in his pants.

KENNETH A. KEMP
Farmington

Mrs. Gilson Gives Thanks

EDITOR: May I please express through your column our sincere thanks to all our good friends who gave so generously to the Blue Star Daisy Sale held Sept. 11 and 12.

Your money will be used wisely. Our work is with veterans, their families and V.A. hospitals. Our hospital was the Mayberry Sanitorium at Northville until they closed it last year. Now we aid the Iron Mountain Hospital which has no chapter near them. Last month we purchased a wheelchair for one of their patients. We would like some new members too. Any mother who has had a son or daughter in service is eligible to join. May we hear from some of you? Call me at 476-2783 and I will be glad to tell you more about our Blue Star Mothers.

Thank you again for your wonderful support.

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