

THE FIRST MAN

FRONT PAGE FEB
1973

[Spotlight
Publications
Spotlight House
1. Benwell
N7.



TO BECOME A WOMAN!

The story of the first ever sex operation

MR. AND MRS. Jorgensen's son George had been in Denmark for two years when a letter arrived at their New York home. As they opened it, a photograph of a strikingly beautiful girl fell out. Their immediate thought was that their ex-G.I. son was going to tell them that he was married or about to marry.

But they were in for a shock. The letter told them: "Dear Mom and Dad, I am now your daughter." It was true, and the case of George Jorgensen made history by becoming the first legally-recognized sex change. There had, of course, been many other cases reported before this.

But they were usually the result of a disappointed mother and father who wanted, say, a son, and when a daughter was born, dressed her in boy's clothes and brought her up as a man. Then, when the girl reached womanhood, she herself would seek legal advice on how to end the farce that her parents had forced upon her. But the George Jorgensen case was not like that. Actual physical changes had been brought about by medical means.

It was in 1950 that George went to Denmark to seek treatment from Dr Karl

OPERATION SEX!



● The former GI felt that nature had taken a wrong course. In the mind of the GI, the body should have belonged to a woman rather than a man. So it was inevitable that the first sex change operation should take place. But it was not so inevitable that the person who had the operation should enter showbusiness to star in films and cabaret.

of American nightclubs had been seeing during the previous year. For example, a comic appearing with her asked: "Do you plan to marry?"

"Sure".

"What about children?"

"Can you picture me," replied the stunningly turned out Christine, "an offspring of mine on my knee, and saying 'Tell me, mother, about your boyhood'."

In 1953 alone she was estimated to have earned £50,000. Curiously enough, Christine has exactly the brash, self-assured, well-manicured personality that typifies most American women entertainers. In 1970 she arrived in London to boost the opening of the film of her life. Full of self-assurance, she swept in wearing a mink coat, looking very much like any other middle-aged American woman with a few dollars in the bank.

She then answered the inevitable questions about her sex-change.

"Apart from the fear of the unknown, of trying to find the right slot to fit into, I knew which way I wanted to go. And I have never regretted it. I am not 100 per cent happy — who is? But I am a damn sight happier than I was before."

But then she made the key statement that answered the vital question millions had wondered about.

"Sexually, I am a woman EXCEPT THAT I CANNOT HAVE CHILDREN. I have had my share of affairs. I've certainly not been neglected, and I almost got married twice. The fact is, men are wary of me — and I am wary of the ones who aren't. It takes a great deal of courage for a man to be seen escorting me." Christine agrees that she has "done pretty well" over the years since she first hit the front pages. The soldier who became a showgirl certainly appears to have no regrets over the momentous decision she made in 1950.