

HE
GIVES
PEOPLE

NEW FACES

by JOSEPH STOCKER

They come to this Los Angeles businessman with hooknoses, receding chins, and scars; he dips into his wallet to right nature's errors

EVERY ONCE in a while somebody bounces into the office of Stanley S. Slotkin, a Los Angeles businessman, and asks, "How do you like my new nose?" or, "What do you think of my new chin?" The questions may sound strange—but not to Slotkin. It was he who made the new features possible.

In the past dozen years, Slotkin has arranged and financed—at least partially—about 1,500 operations involving plastic surgery. It's his favorite hobby and a godsend to the people whose lives have been transformed along with their appearance. They come to Slotkin with hooknoses, receding chins, harelips, conspicuous birthmarks, pockmarks, and acne scars. Some have no money for an operation; some have a little but not enough. It doesn't matter. If plastic surgery can help them, Slotkin helps pay whatever bills have to be paid.

His reward? Nothing but satisfaction—the kind that comes from cases like that of eight-year-old Joe.

When Slotkin first knew him, Joe was a very unhappy kid because his ears stuck out. The boys called him "Elephant Ears" or "Airplane Wings."

The reaction in Joe was one of excessive belligerence. He picked fights and became the school outlaw.

Joe's parents couldn't afford the operation to straighten his ears, but they heard about Stanley Slotkin. He agreed to underwrite the surgery.

Ten days after the operation, when Joe went back to school, his ears lay neatly against the sides of his head.

Slotkin saw him a few days later.

"Well Joe," he asked, "what happened at school?"

"Nothing," said Joe.

"Nothing at all?"

"Nope. Well, yes, something happened. I was playing with the boys, and the girls came over and talked to me."

Those few words revealed that Joe was an outlaw no longer. He had been given what he needed—acceptance.

Stanley Slotkin, a lean, intense businessman of 52, was led into his hobby by a Christmas happenstance in the mid-1940s. He had a secretary named Betty—an efficient but homely girl who was introverted and unhappy. One day Slotkin asked, "Betty, what would you like for Christmas?" The reply jolted him.

"Mr. Slotkin, I'd like a new face!"

Only then did Slotkin fully realize how unattractive Betty was. He decided, insofar as it lay within his power and the power of medical science, to give her

what she wanted for Christmas.

After the operation, Slotkin and his wife brought Betty into their home for her convalescence. When she was fully recovered, they took her to a hairdresser and then to a dress shop. With some new clothes, her new hairdo, and especially her new face, Betty was radiantly attractive. Slotkin lost a secretary when Betty married a few months later, but he gained a philanthropy.

Each morning at 11 o'clock, he interviews anybody who wants to see him about getting a new face. Of the 1,500 transformations Stanley Slotkin has made possible, which is his favorite? "The one I did yesterday," he says.

Slotkin doesn't get to see all the people he has given new faces. Some of his "patients" come to his office to say thanks, but many others cannot trust themselves to hold their emotions in check, and they express their gratitude in letters. It doesn't matter to him whether he receives expressions of gratitude from people he has helped.

"They don't have to thank me," he says. "I'm just an intermediary between God and the doctor."



The above photos strikingly illustrate what plastic surgery can do to give people a new lease on life. The hero behind many such miracles is Stanley S. Slotkin (top picture) who has financed 1,500 of these operations in the past 12 years.

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