

## Derivation of author's name:

**BOTTOM(E), BOTTOMS, BOTTAMS, BOTHAM(S):** locality surname Old English *botm* 'innermost part of a valley' 13<sup>th</sup> century. That is, 'the people who farmed the bottom of the valley in the north of England'.

[Old English: The West Germanic language of the Anglo-Saxons spoken in England from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> century]

**Author's Name -** The following deals with people with famous names in Cairns (1997):

**EXTRA** The Cairns Post, Saturday, October 11, 1997 — Page 41

# to parts of anatomy

are our most popular girls names, while Jack, Nathan, Samuel, Jacob, Daniel, Matthew and Nicholas remain favourites for boys. But the ethnic influence is being felt here through names like Yazmin, Netanya, Chanel, Jamila, Kalika and Tatjana (tah-sh-amb-sh). And today it's a case of choose your own spelling. There's Caitlin, Kaitlin, Caitlyn, Katelyn or Kaitlyn. Or Michaelly, Mikaela, Michaela, Micaela and Mikaelah.

A flick through our phone book reveals interesting surnames — and their sources. Take Rainwater, Bridgewater, Drinkwater and Groundwater. Or Archdeacon, Bishop, Dean, Friar, Monk or Sexton. There are dozens of Barbers, a Bailiff, Baker, Brewer, Coppersmith, Doctor, Painter, Pilot and Piper.

Famous names like Bach, Bogart, Dietrich, Hemingway and Shakespeare. Body parts like Brain, Kneebone, Tongue and Tooth. Or food — Raisin, Sultana, Ham, Bacon, Rice and Spice.

There's Bottom, Bottomer, Winterbottom and Bottomley Also Bumstead, Binstead and Grinstead. Careless and Carless, Crapp and Crook. Eskimo and Equinox. Glass and Glaze. Goodnight and Goodyear. Grave and Churchyard. Truelove and Twaddle. Slimmer and Smoothy. Sleep and Soxsmith. Rich and Romeo. Virgo and Virtue. Younghusband and Youngman.

The list is endless. The choice is yours. All it takes to get the name you want is a trip to the Supreme Court and a \$48.50 fee. Last year, 1086 Queenslanders took the plunge.



**NO problem:** Monsignor John Lennon of Edmonton says his name rarely crops up in conversation.



**MOVIE madness:** Smithfield property consultant Gregory Peck was named after his mother's matinee idol.

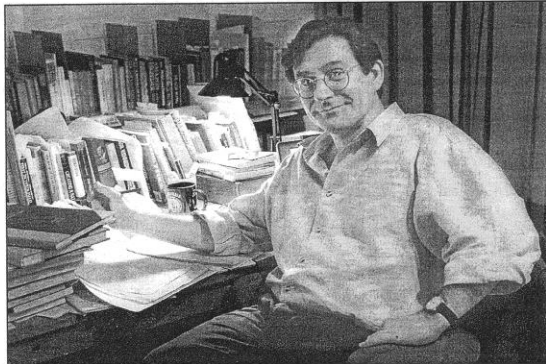


**DAILY ribbings:** Radio 4CA station manager James Dein's name is pronounced like that of cult figure James Dean — as he is constantly reminded.

But one clever remark does stand out from the rest. "I remember when Richard Burton died, I was at work and answered the phone and said 'Elizabeth Taylor speaking'. The fellow said 'please accept my sincere condolences'. I thought that was quite quick."

Former Cairns accountant John Lennon had just been ordained a priest when four young mop-topped Liverpoolians — including one John Lennon — burst on to the music scene as The Beatles.

"I was well into my 30s at that time," says the 67-year-old



**COMMON bond:** Historian Timothy Bottoms shares more than his name with American actor Timothy Bottoms. He used to be an actor too. Picture: Mike Watt

Catholic priest who lives at Edmonton and was elevated to the status of Monsignor by Pope John Paul earlier this year.

"I remember them and their notoriety — and the hysteria they caused in the '60s. I thought they were the fathers of irreverence and irreigion. They thumbed their nose at everyone, so I haven't got much time for them, personally."

Their music held little appeal for the young priest, who's only ever liked one Beatles melody — Yesterday — and that is the work of Paul McCartney, not John Lennon.

Monsignor Lennon says sharing the same name as a pop star is never a problem. "It certainly hasn't bothered me and hasn't ordinarily drawn much attention to me. Sometimes it's a conversation opener but that's more unusual than usual. It wouldn't happen to me once a month."

Innisfail has not one, but two David Bowies. David Bowie senior works at the Mourilyan bulk sugar terminal, while son David is a fitter at a Mt Isa mine. But true to the form of their famous namesake, both are media-shy.

Asked if the name is a handicap, Bowie Jr indicates it is and says he doesn't want to "make it any worse" by talking about it. Bowie Snr says there are no problems but he simply isn't interested in talking about his name.

Cairns author and historian Timothy Bottoms says his name — shared with American actor Timothy Bottoms — is his "one great claim to fame."

"It was first brought to my attention that he existed in 1971, when he appeared as a burns patient in a film. He isn't a bad actor but he hasn't appeared in anything for a good 10 years."

The 42-year-old Cairns man has more in common with the other Timothy than just their names. He worked as an actor on stage, radio, film and television in Sydney during the 1980s.

But, once he "realised actors had to do what other people told them", he moved into research, writing, and radio documentary production.

Tim says some of his friends have gone out of their way to watch Timothy Bottoms' films "just to see this other fellow".

"Others who meet him for the first time ask: 'You're not the actor?'"

But comparisons with the actor aren't the only problem for someone with the name Bottoms. "When I was a school kid, I used to get teased. But you get to the stage where you sharpen your wits."

The name, incidentally, has nothing to do with derrieres. It's an old English name meaning people who farm the bottoms of the valleys.

When Adelaide-born dentist Stephen King graduated 17 years ago, the world wasn't too familiar with that other Stephen King — the author from America. But, after King's first scary novel and film — Carrie — came a string of bestsellers

including Salem's Lot, Misery and The Shining.

Before long, King was being crowned as today's greatest writer of horror fiction. For 42-year-old Stephen King, now practising in Cairns, it has been a bit of a nightmare.

"If he was into romance novels it would be all right but he's into fear and horror, so it's not a great name for a dentist. Most people are nervous about going to the dentist anyway, so going to a dentist named Stephen King makes them even more nervous."

While none of King's novels features a maniacal dentist, Stephen gets at least two or three patients a day making reference to the name.

Often tense, they try to make light of it with a joke. He responds by working extra hard to relax them.

"It gives you a lot of job satisfaction when you get people who are absolutely terrified and you get them to the point where they're no longer frightened of going to the dentist."



**FAME Game:** Elizabeth Taylor of Freshwater and son James can both claim fame through their names. Picture: David Bragg