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what's he waiting for?**

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dead gorgeous starlets. In fact, the first time Evans saw actress and renowned beauty Catherine Oxenberg, she was taking a lesson on his court from Goldman. Evans immediately declared that he was going to marry Oxenberg, and he did, though the marriage to wife No. 5 lasted all of 10 days.

"No sport takes you more places than tennis," Evans says. "I've met everyone from royalty to beautiful women and made tons of deals, all through tennis."

DEALS, IT SEEMS, HAVE ALWAYS SHARED center court with tennis in Evans' life. Although he insists on being called just Evans, he was born Robert Shapera, the son of a New York dentist. Robert first wielded a racquet at Camp Greylock in the Berkshires, and on family vacations in Miami Beach he was introduced to tennis titans like Pancho Segura. Eager to assimilate, Robert and his brother, Charles, changed their names as teenagers, modifying their mother's maiden name, Evan.



DUSTIN HOFFMAN, DISTRESSED BY PERCEIVED BAD CALLS DURING A MATCH WITH EVANS, BROUGHT AN UMPIRE'S CHAIR FROM WIMBLEDON—COMPLETE WITH THE UMPIRE. "SAME RESULT," EVANS SAYS WITH A CHUCKLE, "A WIN FOR ME."

Evans went to work for a clothing business started by Charles, Evan-Picone. He also nurtured a passion for tennis, relying on his schmoozing talents on trips to Forest Hills (site of the U.S. Nationals) to strike up friendships with Lew Hoad, Tony Trabert, and Jack Kramer.

But Evans also harbored another infatuation, dating back to his days as a child actor on New York radio and in stage productions. He pined for the bright lights of Hollywood, and he got his chance to bask in them while vetting models and making sales calls for Evan-Picone in Los Angeles in the 1950s. It seems only fitting that as an actor, Evans was "discovered" by the actress Norma Shearer moments after finishing a tennis match at the Beverly Hills Hotel. He appeared mostly in bit parts in movies that included *Man of A Thousand Faces* and *The Sun Also Rises*.

Evans wasn't the first person in Hollywood to embrace tennis. As far back as the 1930s, L.A.'s ideal tennis climate and an affluent, status-and-health conscious entertainment community



Evans with Charlton Heston (above) and (top) relishing another win over arch-rival Dustin Hoffman.

were perfectly matched. Groucho Marx, Carole Lombard, and Errol Flynn were avid players, and their partners included Fred Perry, Ellsworth Vines, and Bill Tilden. They met for hit-and-giggle sessions at the Beverly Hills Tennis Club and Charlie Chaplin's estate. Throughout the '30s and '60s, Charlton Heston, James Franciscus, Elke Sommer, and Alan King (who always has had a choice box at the U.S. Open) flocked to tennis pro-ams.

Evans marched in step with that crowd, although he didn't really make it in Tinseltown until he gave up acting in the 1960s. He became a Hollywood mogul, personifying the Jewish assimilationist's mandate "to dress British, think Yiddish." (He still employs a British butler, who is a member of the Screen Actors Guild.) In the mid-'60s, Evans became head of production for Paramount and bought his beloved Woodland.

THE "COTTAGE," A CONVERTED POOL HOUSE THAT GRETA Garbo called home for a time, is another historic feature of