

MORRIS

GEST'S

MIDGET TOWN



WITH THE WORLD'S GREATEST MIDGET ARTISTES

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR

N.F. w. postcard

M I D G E T S

•••••
*The World's Population is rated at 2,000,000,000
of which it is estimated there are only 2,000 Midgets*
•••••

There's Only
"ONE IN A MILLION"

MORRIS "GULLIVER" GEST and THE WORLD'S GREATEST MINIATURE ARTISTES



Morris Gest

TO EVERYONE who loves the Theatre, from Portland to Portland and from Winnipeg to the Gulf, Morris Gest is known as the producer of the world's greatest spectacles and the sponsor of the greatest artistic successes of the modern stage. His name is the synonym for the fabulous "Experience", the famed "Chu Chin Chow", the lavish and resplendent "Aphrodite" and "Mecca" and the overpoweringly beautiful religious spectacle "The Miracle", as well as for the glories of the Theatre International which he was the first to bring to America—The Ballet Russe, Michel Fokine, Balieff's Chauve Souris, the Moscow Art Theatre and its Musical Studio, as well as the Divine Duse on her farewell tour.

Always, he has specialized in doing big things in a big way or little things in an exquisitely simple way.

Now, for the first time with the Midgets of his MIDGET TOWN at the New York World's Fair, Morris Gest is doing little things in a big way.

When it was announced that Morris Gest was going to present Midgets at the World's Fair, those who knew his reputation for the super-

colossal suspected that he would blossom forth as the overlord of a village of Giants! Hadn't he brought to America the greatest giant of all times, the Russian Makhno, while he was hunting hits for Hammerstein?

But when Morris Gest said Midgets, he meant Midgets! Only there were to be more of them than had ever been gathered together in the same company — seventy-six of them from twenty countries and provinces, and the most talented members of this strange human species, justly famed down the ages for mental and physical prowess.

"Midgets are gigantic," says Morris Gest. "Little in body but great in mind and heart. It was a great kindness that a Midget performed for me while I was making a pilgrimage to my father's grave that started this whole project of MIDGET TOWN.

"I had been asked to take part in the New York World's Fair. The great shows of the World's Fair would be the world of to-morrow in industry and science and the displays of the various nations. To compete would mean all work and no play. A Fair suggested to me the carnival spirit — fun. If I couldn't have fun, why bother?

"The Midgets of MIDGET TOWN seemed to be the answer.

"Someone said to me, 'Well, may your troubles be little ones.' But Morris Gest tells you that the Midgets are no trouble at all.

"I am having a good time," he says, "and in my Midget way I believe that I am setting a living example of how all Nations can live together in harmony — if not under the same roof, at least on the same platform, and that platform is the Platform of Peace!

"Here in MIDGET TOWN I feel the heartbeat of the world with Midgets from England, Scotland, Wales, France, Russia, Hungary, Austria, Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, Holland, Czecho-Slovakia, Norway, Memel, Poland, many other countries and provinces, and last, but not least, many little people from all parts of America.

"To bring about this MIDGET TOWN of PEACE is my Gulliver Gest-ure for the New York World's Fair."



The Company aboard the "Ile de France"

The majority of the Midgets came over from Europe on the "Ile de France", which encountered very rough weather. In spite of this only two of the little people suffered any ill effects whereas about sixty per cent of the normal size passengers on the boat were "under the weather".



*The Cowboy and the Lady—
and Ronnie Street*

Five of the smallest horses in the world, belonging to the Midgets were rescued from the burning "Paris", together with many of the little people's costumes, and transferred to the "Champlain". The horses were accommodated in dog boxes for the Atlantic crossing.



"Looking Up"



Morris Gest meets the Midgets on Arrival at New York

MIDGETS MAKE GOOD IN A BIG WAY AT HOTEL BY CAUSING VERY, VERY LITTLE TROUBLE

By MARION BUSSANG
Staff Correspondent *New York Post*

GREAT NECK, L. I., April 26.—The guests of the Colony Hotel here were somewhat startled Friday night when they looked up from their newspapers to see seventy little people swarming across the lobby.

The little people, who ranged from two feet two to four feet three, were the advance guard of the midget citizenry of Morris Gest's Midget Town at the World's Fair.

They took over one wing of the hotel — thirty rooms — at once, and by today had taken over the entire establishment, guests and all.

English, Dutch, Russian and Hungarian, aged anywhere from nineteen to fifty-six, they have completely charmed their neighbors.

Breakfasters Await Them

Early breakfasters wait for them to start trickling sleepily into the dining room at 8 o'clock and invite them to sit with them.

The Lilliputians complain that they can't get any exercise because whenever they set out for a morning's fishing — the proportion of miniature Izaak Waltons among them is tremendous — they can scarcely get to the door without four or five offers of lifts from full-size people with cars. A car holds about fifteen midgets.

While the men fish, the ladies knit or beautify themselves. The married ones are particularly fussy about their appearances, according to three-

and-a-half-foot Mrs. Edith Kaye, whose husband, Arthur, tops her by four inches. There are five married couples among the midgets. The Kayes are trapeze artists.

Princess Constant Primper

Princess Mignonette, pretty, blonde, twenty-four and three-feet-four, assured us that good grooming is almost a festish with little people. She sets the wave in her hair every day and gives herself a facial at the same time.

After lunch there is one hour's rehearsal for the variety show the troupe will put on at the Fair, then the midgets set out for the movies at the urgent invitation of other hotel guests or take naps or sew or just talk. One lady midget said that midgets are probably among the gossipiest people on earth.

English Dress for Dinner

The English midgets generally dress for dinner. They have a white man's burden sort of attitude about it.

After dinner, more cards, more movies, more talk, and many a visit to the hotel bar, where they drink, too much, they say, because people insist on standing them their whisky-and-sodas.

The hotel staff pampers the little people. The manager told us he had never known such pleasant, thoughtful, neat or uncomplaining clients anywhere he had worked. Midgets, he said, are the hotel man's dream of perfect guests.



MIDGET - DWARF - PIGMY - LILLIPUTIAN

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

A MIDGET is a reproduction in miniature of a perfectly proportioned normal human being, whose greatest height is four feet six inches, and whose smallest known measurement is one foot seven inches.

A DWARF is a person stunted in growth, but generally thought of as having some deformity.

A PIGMY is the next classification in height to a Midget, ranging from four feet six inches to four feet eleven inches. The PIGMY is racial and begets its own kind, thus propagating and perpetuating the PIGMY race, while Midgets seldom give birth to Midgets.

A LILLIPUTIAN is the inhabitant of Lilliput, a fabled country created in the mind of Jonathan Swift in his classic "Gulliver's Travels", a political satire. The LILLIPUTIANS were diminutive people in this work of fiction, and their name has come to be broadly used for Little People anywhere.

JUST IN CASE YOU WONDER WHY

Question: Why are Midgets Midgets?

Answer: In some cases the thyroid gland is very small, permitting the child to grow only until the gland is used up. Then the actual growth of the child stops, but the brain continues to develop the same as in normal people. In other cases the responsibility rests with the pituitary gland, lying in a depression of the skull and attached to the base of the brain. When this gland does not develop properly, growth is halted and we have Midgets.

Question: Are there different classifications of Midgets?

Answer: Yes, there are three classifications — the Primordial Midget, the Infantile Midget, the True Midget.

Question: How do these differ?

Answer: The Primordial Midget is a Midget at birth, generally of normal parents. Except for stature, he develops in sex and mind like a normal person. The Infantile Midget is normal at

birth and develops mentally but rarely sexually.

The True Midget is born normal, develops normally in mind and sex, except that the age of puberty is in the late 'teens or early twenties.

Question: How do Midgets grow?

Answer: Normal mankind ceases to grow in the early twenties as the bone ends close. The Primordial or born Midget reaches his extreme height at twenty-five and never grows after that age, as his bone ends close like those of a normal person.

In the Infantile and True Midget classifications, both born normal, the growth is generally retarded at or before the fifth year, after which Midgetism occurs.

Midgets of both of these classes sometimes grow amazingly after thirty, as their bone ends are not closed. Although they may grow into the Pigmy class, they seldom if ever reach normal height. The period when abnormalities occur in growing is "the age of onset". One develops into a Midget or a Giant, generally before puberty and more often under the age of five.

Question: Is Midgetism inherited?

Answer: Midgetism is not supposed to be hereditary, as cases of Midgets from generation to generation are seldom if ever known. Midgets rarely beget their kind. Any normal person may give birth to a Midget or a Giant.

Question: What quantity of food do Midgets eat?

Answer: Because Midgets' metabolic rate is one and a half times that of normal individuals they must eat and drink more in relation to size to maintain sufficient energy. A Midget may eat one-twenty-fifth of his entire weight at a single sitting, and drink enough liquid to provide a bath. They can often "drink under the table" a normal person.

PLENTY OF SUN AND FRESH AIR



These photos show the perfect physical proportions of the Midgets

Another question frequently asked is "How do Midgets keep so physically fit and strong?"

The best answer is that they are well looked after and that they look after themselves well. Further, they are all encouraged to take as much advantage of the sun and air as possible.

The Midgets are all sun-bathers, and they never miss an opportunity of getting a sun-bath or a swim. During the summer they go out in parties and find a secluded spot where they can play games and swim with the minimum amount of clothing.

During the Medical Conference at Bournemouth, England, several years ago, many of the Doctors were greatly interested in the Midgets of Fred Roper's company who were appearing at the Bournemouth Theatre, and various committees made special examinations of members of the company, two very famous X-ray doctors taking over sixty X-ray photographs.

The result of the examinations astonished the Doctors, who admitted they were astounded to find such perfectly formed little people.



Roper's Midget Football Team

THE MIDGETS IN SOUTH AFRICA



With South African Native Belles and Piccaninnies



The Midgets at Madeira



King of Swaziland with the Little People



Kalahari Desert Bushmen visit the Midgets

THE GROUPS INHABITING MIDGET TOWN

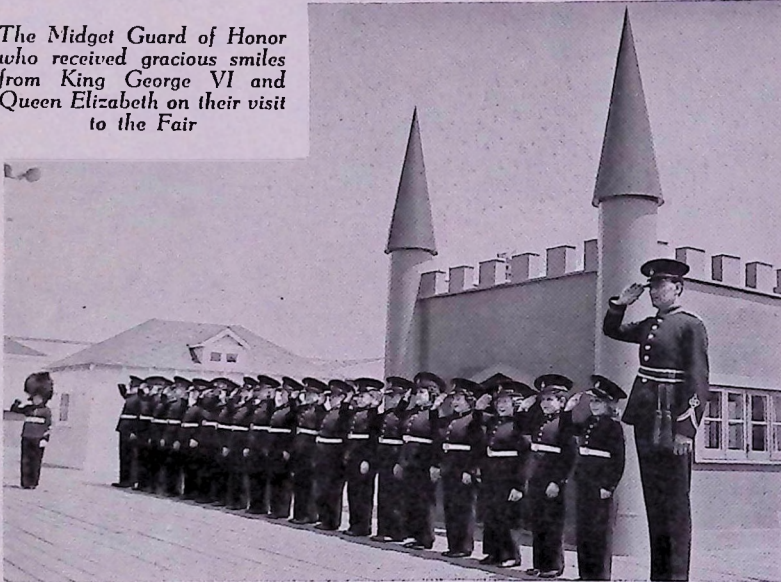
Roper's Midgets. Fred Roper was engaged for some special work at the Tower, Blackpool, England in 1929. Appearing at the Tower was a company of Midgets, who were disbanded at the end of the season.

Mr. Roper had become very attached to the

little people, and decided to rehearse them, bring out their natural talents, and form a new type of entertainment — a musical show by Midgets.

The little band numbered 12 at its initial performance, but the fame of the show soon got around and new members joined. The company

The Midget Guard of Honor who received gracious smiles from King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on their visit to the Fair



The Full Company

GROUPS INHABITING MIDGET TOWN (continued)

expanded and embraced other types of entertainment. In the past ten years they have travelled the world appearing in Vaudeville, Circus, Cabaret and Films, and are firm radio favorites in several countries. Over eight million people have seen the shows given by this talented Company.

Rebernigg Midgets. Robert Rebernigg is the son of a man who was the proprietor of a famous circus in Vienna. Appearing in the Circus were two Midgets for whom Robert had a great affection, so he decided to take them on a tour of the Theatres.

In Jugoslavia he came across two more Midgets and during further travels in France, Italy and Czechoslovakia added others until his present company was formed.

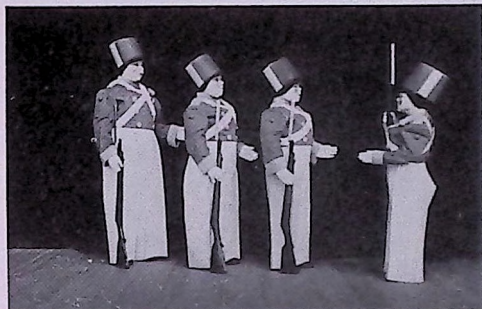
Prior to coming to America this troupe appeared with great success in Italy for over two years.

Andre Ratoucheff Midgets. Andre Ratoucheff hails from Mr. Gest's own birthplace — Russia. When his father Nicholas Ratoucheff, one of Russia's foremost Shakespearean actors, discovered that his son was a Midget, he conceived the idea of forming a midget company of fifteen, with

which he toured successfully throughout Russia.

When the revolution broke out, the company was playing in Moscow, with Andre rivalling the celebrated comic opera comedian, Monakhoff.

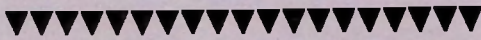
After long engagements among the Don Cossacks and in the Caucasus, the Ratoucheff Midgets left for Turkey and Central and Western Europe. They made their first trip to the United States 15 years ago to participate in the Ziegfeld Follies of 1924. Since the death of his father Andre has headed the company himself.



*Andre Ratoucheff's
Parade of Wooden Soldiers*



Rebernigg's Military Band



Fred Roper



Ronnie Street



Princess Mignonette



James Welton



Little Lady Godiva



Elsa May Lewis



Ronald Phillips



Mary Best



Marcus Powell



Arthur Kaye



Mrs. Arthur Kaye



Max Chrysler



Mrs. Max Chrysler



Geoffrey Burratt



Babette Ledoir



Lily Ledoir



Roy Penney



George Stoddart



Mrs. George Stoddart



Mary Ellen Burbach



James Atherton



Jack Bacon



Dorothea Parker



Leonard Frank



Sonia Frank



Simon Frank



Vivian Pascoe



Samuel Thurling



Norman Halliday



Pepi Krisch



Nimi Krisch



Alois Vasek



Maria Gazzano



Hilda Karollus



Frederick Karollus



Elizabeth Tollner



William Hoasz



Fritz Soucek



Alois Sapik



Theresa Roblicka



George Ruff



Andre Ratouchieff



Mierina Kourassa



Nicolas Souryn



Marina Yamchikoff

AROUND MIDGET TOWN

THE TOWN HALL. Mayor Marcus Powell will welcome you to this little City if he's still in office.

THE HOMESTEAD. Is occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Stoddart, one of our oldest married couples. They were married over the anvil at Gretna Green, Scotland, scene of many run-away weddings.

TWIN SPIRES. Mr. and Mrs. Max Chrysler are the owners of this charming little residence. These little folk are also from England.

THE ENCHANTED COTTAGE. Is shared by two charming little ladies Princess Mignonette (Sadie MacDonald) from Scotland, and Little Lady Godiva (Edith Rollason) who derives her name from her home town of Coventry, England.

THE GUILDHALL. Is the home of Mary Ellen Burbach, a native of Chicago and Dorothea Parker of Yorkshire, England.

VILLA LOUISA. Here you will find Maria Gazzano who comes from sunny Italy, and Elizabeth Tollner of Vienna, Austria.

STRATFORD HOUSE. Three wise(?) men reside here. Bachelors Ronald Phillips, Roy Penney and James Wetton all of whom hail from England.

THE BLUEBELL. This charming little cottage houses Mimi Krisch, from Yugoslavia and her friend Theresa Roblicka of Hungary.

THE TOWERS. A somewhat imposing building is the home of seven little American ladies, Alice and Gussie Pick, Florence and Adella Novak, Ila May Riddle, Suzanne Bohonyi and Esther Howard.

THE GARAGE. Here you will find the Fire Chief's Car, a 1 h.p. sedan with a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour.

OLDE WELCOME COTTAGE. Is occupied by our most recently married couple, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kaye of England, who were married recently in South Africa.

CASTLE THEATRE. Should not be missed although the tiny Tom Thumb brothers are so small you might easily overlook them.

WILLFRED HOUSE. Our smallest building, is the home of William Haasz of Hungary and Fritz Karollus of Vienna, Austria.

MYSTIC VILLA. You must visit this little house which is occupied by Mlle. Elsie, the world famous Midget Palmist. This little lady, who comes from Wales, has been consulted by thousands of people throughout the world.

MIDGET TOWN POST OFFICE. Here you can obtain from Postmaster Jack Bacon the specially issued Midget Town Stamp, also first day covers of this stamp and the opening of the 1940 Fair.

THE COUNTRY CLUB. Recreation centre and the spot where the Midgets eat many varieties of food and talk many languages.

ROSE VILLA. The home of the twin sisters, Lily and Babette Ledair of Liverpool, England, two charming little ladies whom you must visit.

MIDGET TOWN STABLES. Do not miss seeing the little horses Princess, Rex, Tiny and Esposa; the latter a specially bred Midget Race Horse and winner of the Lilliput Stakes last year. The horses are under the capable care of James Atherton and Sam Thurling.

GULLIVER'S HOTEL. Is occupied by other Midgets of all nationalities. The service must be good as the Hotel is always full and no one checks out.

Lastly the

MIDGET TOWN THEATRE. Where Morris Gest stages programs with the cream of the world's Lilliputian talent. Actors, Comedians, Musicians — there are three bands and countless soloists, Singers, Dancers, Clowns, Acrobats, Trick Cyclists, Magicians, Trapeze Artists and every other conceivable type of entertainment.

CAMBRIDGE COTTAGE is the home of Ronald Street and Geoffrey Barratt both from England.

**AFTER THE SHOW
EAT AND DRINK**

at the

**MIDGET BAR
RESTAURANT**



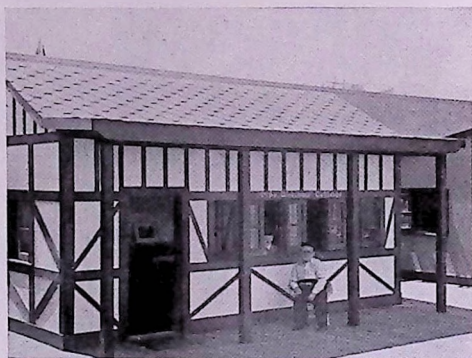
*Town Hall — The Mayor,
his Bodyguard and a Guest*



Sunday Morning News



Morris Gest with the Midget Police Commissioner



An Old English Home



A Hotel Rendezvous



Andre with the Ladies



"Please sit down"



Roll Up! Roll Up!



Andre and Willie between the Acts



The Homestead



Return From A Ride



Roof Lighting



Ronald Street, a keen amateur gardener



Watering the Midget Horses



Tallulah Bankhead and Ronnie Street



A Red Hot Card Game Between Shows



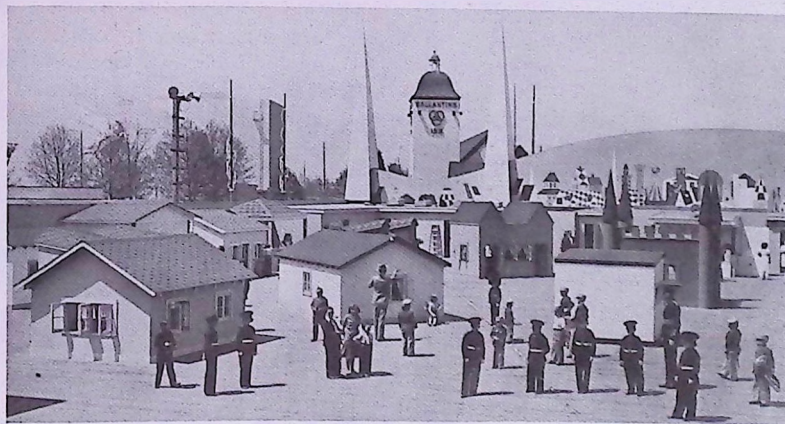
*Morris Gest with James Cagney,
Andre Ratoucheff, Anton Dolin
and Yurek Shabalewski*



Princess Mignonette Sweeping Her Cottage



Hilda Karollus Prepares Her Own Meal



A Corner of Midget Town

MIDGETS - DOWN THE AGES

By MARJORIE BARKENTIN

Midgets are as old as humanity. They are recorded from the stone age. The ancient Egyptians worshipped a Midget whom they elevated to Ptah, the artisan God. Any Midget was revered as a symbol of this God, and therefore royally treated. They became favorites of the dynasties of the Nile Valley, and this custom soon spread to other countries.

In Rome, the Emperor Augustus collected Midgets. His favorite was less than two feet high. His niece, Julia, kept two—Conopas and his sister Andromedia. Neither was more than two feet four inches in height. Domitian had so many that, for his amusement, he trained them as a group of gladiators in the arena. Tiberius Caesar often depended upon a Midget for his wisdom in affairs of state. Marius Maximus and Marcus Tullius, Midgets of two feet four inches, were made "Knights of Rome". Marc Anthony's personal Midget was less than two feet tall.

Every noble Roman family prided itself on a Midget in its retinue. Such lavish gifts were showered on these diminutive people, who were dressed almost solely in precious jewels, that scheming rogues tried to develop Midgets through mal-nutrition or stunting the growth of infants by binding their bodies or plying them with alcoholic brews. All this, however, resulted only in sick and puny children.

The Jews had treated Midgets kindly. Midgets are referred to in both the Old and New Testaments.

After the period of Roman favor, Midgets retained their high position during the Middle Ages. Charles IX had his favorite Little People. Catherine de Medici, Princess Natalia—sister of Peter the Great of Russia, Isabelle d'Este and her sister Beatrice, were all interested in mating Midgets to try to propagate their kind. The courts of Sweden also favored Midgets in the nineteenth century.

In England, Queen Mary had a Midget as Page of Honor. He was John Jarvis, three feet eight inches tall. Charles I had as page Richard Gibson, who became noted as a court painter of miniatures. Queen Henrietta Maria's Midget protege, Ann Shephard, was noted for her beauty and became the wife of Richard Gibson with the pomp of a court wedding. There were nine normal children born to this union, five of whom grew to adulthood. Mrs. Gibson lived to the age of

eighty-nine. Queen Elizabeth delighted in the beauty of Mrs. Tomysen her favorite Midget.

The royal favor for Midgets led to a commerce in these little people. They began to be publicly exhibited. Many beauties were recorded, notably Lady Morgantina, — "The Windsor Fairy"; Miss Selby, — "The Guernsey Nymph"; Madame Teresia, — "The Corsican Fairy" and Caroline Crachami, a beauty of Sicily.

Medical records vouch for a perfectly formed woman who was one foot seven inches in height. This was Pauline Musters, born of normal parents in Holland. She was the smallest adult Midget ever officially attested. A famous French Midget, Princess Topaze of Paris, was one foot eleven and a half inches tall and weighed only fourteen pounds although she was perfectly formed.

Numerous Midgets now won favor on exhibition. Fairs and carnivals always featured Midgets. Midgets of superstitious parents, who thought they were still visitations upon them, welcomed the opportunity to join the show folk, as their lives were miserable at home. Besides the mere exhibition of Midgets as curiosities, some of these talented little folk became as well known for their artistry as for their diminutive size. Notable among them was Nanette Stocker, two feet six inches in height, who at the age of sixteen was a marvellous pianist. She attracted the attention of John Hauptmann, himself two feet nine inches at the age of twenty. He was a noted violinist and when they joined forces they were acclaimed as great musicians. It is said that his unrequited love for Nanette was poured into his compositions and his superb playing.

Joseph Borulwaski, born in Russian Poland, became the protege of Countess Humiecka when he was only eight years old and one foot eight inches in height. At the age of twenty-one he was two feet two inches. He grew into a Don Juan, and, as the Countess travelled with him to all of the Courts of Europe, he became a sensation. His amorous adventures finally led her to seclude him in her palace. Here, however he fell in love with the companion of the Countess, a normal woman, married her, and was banished by the Countess after an association of thirty years. He made a fortune touring and exhibiting himself, had two normal children, published his autobiography which was highly successful, and died in 1837 at the age of ninety-eight.

Midgets Down The Ages (continued)

About this time, 1832, the most publicized Midget of all time was born — Charles Sherwood Stratton — who at the age of ten was brought to the attention of Phineas T. Barnum. Barnum engaged this child Midget, named him Tom Thumb, and paid his parents three dollars a week for a month.

The second contract was for a year at seven dollars a week. The third year, after Tom Thumb had brought to Barnum's box office a quarter of a million dollars, his salary was increased to fifty dollars a week. By the time he was twenty, however, money matters had been fairly adjusted and Tom Thumb retired to live on his fortune.

When Barnum lost everything, Tom Thumb came out of his retirement and made another fortune for him, retiring again at the age of twenty-six. At thirty, he met Lavinia Warren, two feet eight inches tall. Their wedding was one of the seven wonders, and their adventures abroad, managed by Barnum, were sensational. At forty, after a third tour, the "General" retired permanently and lived in great luxury until his death by apoplexy in 1885 at the age of fifty-one.

Through unfortunate investments after his death, Mrs. Tom Thumb again took up a public life and married Ernest Magri, three feet nine inches, who became known as Mrs. Tom Thumb's husband. When they retired after a public life of over fifty years, it was into a miniature home in Marion, Ohio, where they were still on exhibition. Mrs. Tom Thumb died at the age of seventy-eight and her husband two years later.

Another Barnum Midget was Major Nutt, unsuccessful rival of Tom Thumb, who became his best man at the wedding, with Minnie Warren, Lavinia's sister, as bridesmaid.

Although Tom Thumb's fame obscured that of other Midgets, the first recorded American Midget was Calvin Phillips, born in Massachusetts in 1791. He was also said to be the first to be exhibited for a fee. Two feet two and a half inches tall at the age of nineteen, he weighed only twelve pounds dressed. Undoubted victim of thyroid and pituitary gland trouble, he died prematurely of old age at twenty-one.

A score or more of famous Midgets emerged in the United States. Perhaps the best known contemporary of Tom Thumb was Chiquita, the Cuban, two feet five inches tall, who married a man of normal size.

The most important result of Tom Thumb's

popularity was to restore the Midget again to the guise of Royalty's favorite and the pet of world celebrities. Today, Midgets are looked upon as important though diminutive people who claim respect and admiration, not only because Nature has made them masterpieces in miniature — literally "one in a million" — but also because they are talented in the arts of music, dance, painting, theatre. It is as artists that they prefer to claim attention. And it is as artists that Morris Gest presents these Little People of MIDGET TOWN.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Many Towns are on the water's edge, some are surrounded by water, but MIDGET TOWN is built *over the water*.

—○—

Vivian Pascoe, who plays the accordion in the Midget Melody Makers is also a talented pianiste, organist and trumpeter.

—○—

The Midgets have many hobbies including photography, amateur film-producers, riding, fishing, shooting, golf, swimming — in fact all the things you do yourself.

—○—

The Roper Midgets have travelled nearly 250,000 miles to fulfil engagements during the past ten years.

—○—

The father of Sam Thurling was at one time heavyweight boxing champion of the British Navy.

—○—

A newspaper (Midget Size and circulation) with a Midget Editor and Staff, recently appeared in the village. An interesting and amusing publication which gains in quality what it lacks in size. A number of items appearing in this book are written by the Midgets.

**VISIT THE
MIDGET TOWN
STUDIO
FOR SOUVENIR PHOTOGRAPHS
TAKEN WITH THE LITTLE PEOPLE**

WORLD-FAMOUS MIDGETS

GODS: The early Egyptians worshipped PTAH, Midget God of Artists and Artisans, and BES, Midget God of Laughter and Luxury.

KINGS: CROESUS, King of Lydia in the Fifth Century B. C., is said to have been a Midget, though this name is best known as a by-word for wealth.

WLADISLAUS I, of Poland, was affectionately known by his subjects and soldiers by the nickname of "Cubitalis" from cubit, a measure as long as the forearm, or "Lokistek" meaning a "Span-long". He fought heroically for years and recaptured vast territories for Poland.

CHARLES III, in 1552, was King of Naples and Sicily, and a Midget.

WRITERS: PHILUS OF COS, a famed poet in the fourth Century B. C.

ALYPIUS OF ALEXANDRIA in the fourth Century A. D., was a writer, logician and philosopher, less than two feet eight inches in height.

AESOP, whose fables have been known round and throughout the ages, was a Midget.

JOHN BACONTHORPE, a Midget, was an alumnus of Oxford and the Sorbonne.

ORATORS: C. LUCINIUS CALVUS, of Rome, rival to Cicero, was three feet high.

"MR. RAMUS", according to John Evelyn, founder of the Royal Society, was an English Midget who went with the British Ambassador to Vienna in 1678 and made a speech in Latin with such grace and so much eloquence as merited "a golden chain and medal of the Emperor".

ECCLESIASTICS: GREGORY, Bishop of Tours, was a Midget.

GODEAU, Archbishop of France in the seventeenth Century, was also a Midget.

ARTISTS: RICHARD GIBSON, born in England and three feet ten inches high, became court painter of miniatures which even to-day hang with such masters as Raphael, da Vinci, Rembrandt, Titian and Hals.

MUSICIANS: NANETTE STOCKER, pianist.

JOHN HAUPTMANN, violinist, composer, both of the eighteenth Century.

FAMOUS GLAMOR GIRLS: LADY MORGANTINA, "The Windsor Fairy". The great little MISS BILLING of Tilbury.

MISS SELBY of Guernsey.

MADAME TERESIA, "The Corsican Fairy".

LONG-LIVED MIDGETS: ANNE CLOWES was 109 years old at her death in Derbyshire, England in 1784.

EMERSON, reputed to be only one foot three inches, died in London in 1575 at the age of 92.

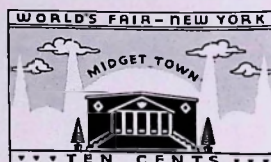
JOSEPH BORULWASKI, known as the Polish Count and Don Juan, died at ninety-eight in the year 1837.

MRS. TOM THUMB died at the age of 78.

**DON'T FAIL TO VISIT
MADAME ELSIE
THE WORLD FAMOUS
MIDGET PALMIST**

**ARE YOU A
STAMP COLLECTOR?**

Call at the
**MIDGET TOWN
POST OFFICE
FOR SPECIAL STAMPS.**



SMALLEST SEDAN IN THE WORLD — ENGINE IN TAIL

Reprint from Durban (Union of South Africa) Newspaper

The road hog's nightmare — 15 miles per hour "flat out," 1 h.p., single speed.

The car owner's dream — 80 m.p.g., genuine leather upholstery, new sedan for £135.

Durban saw the world's smallest sedan car last week when the Autocar, the property of the Wonder Midgets, was on exhibit. It is so small that a reverse gear is not necessary. If you want to reverse all you do is to get out, catch hold of the front bumper and turn round.

It ought to be the perfect size for solving parking difficulties, but like many a bigger brother did not escape from Durban unscathed. While being parked one day in West Street it accidentally ran under the back bumper of a large car and had the bonnet badly dented. An outsize in breakdown trucks arrived, hooked up the Autocar and pulled it through the streets to a garage.

While in Durban it was given an expert "once over" by Messrs. B. and B. Motors. The job was a delicate one. Lifting out the entire power unit was simple — one man did it easily, but working on the minute engine was more a task for a watchmaker.

The car is engined by a one and a half power car weighs a fraction more than 400 lb. and stands 2 ft. high. It was originally designed as a single-seated touring runabout, but has been stripped to the chassis and reconstructed with a sedan body to seat two people — two Midgets — in comfort.

In practically every way the Autocar is a perfect miniature of a large streamlined car. There are pneumatic tyres which measure 14 in. in diameter, a sunshine roof, leather upholstery, an instrument panel (of sorts), air cushions and an aluminum body.



The only way an ordinary-sized man can drive the car is by sitting with his head through the sunshine roof. As for speed, it can manage 15 miles an hour, and will top Berea Road with a good run. The petrol consumption is in the neighborhood of 80 miles to the gallon. In case the tank should run dry a reserve supply is carried in a medicine bottle.

The car is simplicity itself to handle, the clutch, gear and accelerator being synchronised. A rod with teeth working on a cog starts the motor and when the brake is released and the accelerator pressed, away goes the car looking the last word in smartness with silver body-work and red fenders.

The Autocar cost £135 to land in South Africa, and the owner had to pay £4 for a year's license to the Free State, where it is at the moment registered.

DO YOU KNOW?

Must a musician be a person of note?

Should a prisoner suffer for his convictions?

Ought a billiards player put on "side"?

Is a tailor the kind of man to suit everybody?

Is a bald man justified in giving himself "airs"?

DON'T FORGET
THE
MIDGET BAR
RESTAURANT
FOR A LITTLE REFRESHMENT
BEFORE AND AFTER THE SHOW

MIDGET WEDDINGS

THE MARRIAGE OF GEORGE STODDART AND EVA CRANE

There is always a great excitement over a wedding, but when the contracting parties are Midgets, looking like little children, the excitement and interest is multiplied a hundredfold.

Fred Roper's first experience of this was in Bristol in March, 1930. A marriage had been arranged between George Stoddart and Eva Crane. All arrangements had been made and the papers had received news of the forthcoming wedding and had been writing it up during the week previous.

When he arrived at the station on Sunday night he found a huge crowd of people, estimated by the police to be 10,000. The station was besieged and the streets outside thronged with people anxious to see the Midget couple.

The excitement in the city was getting stronger and stronger as each day passed, but something very unfortunate had happened. Owing to a previous contract entered into by one of the parties to be married, it was essential that the real name be kept secret for at least another year. As the press had stirred up public interest to such an extent, there was bound to be a full report of the wedding, with names, ages, etc., which, when published would have had very unfortunate results.

There was only one thing to do — cancel the wedding, for the time being, or get the couple married at a secret place. He made every endeavor to do this, but though he nearly moved heaven and earth, he failed.

Now he had the public to think of; if he suddenly announced that the wedding would not take place, the public would at once think the whole thing had been an advertising stunt, and this would probably have caused trouble with the theatre management, spoiled business for the rest of the week, and left a bad name behind. There was only one thing to do — carry out a big bluff and not disappoint the public.

They expected a wedding and would not be satisfied unless they got one. It was therefore decided to carry out the arrangements already organized, including the wedding breakfast at the Royal Hotel.

All the churches in the city had crowds outside waiting for the Midget bride and bridegroom, but the bride and bridegroom were being driven along country roads miles away after a hide-and-seek chase by three Press cars, the occupants of

which were endeavoring to find out where the ceremony was to take place.

They finally eluded the Press, and at the appointed time, the couple drove up to the Royal Hotel for the Wedding breakfast; the crowd saw the bridal party and were satisfied.

The actual wedding was postponed until March, 1932, when the couple were married at the Blacksmith's Shop, Greta Green, but Mr. Stoddart said: "I am taking no chances this time" and two weeks later Mr. and Mrs. Stoddart had their marriage solemnized at St. Michael's Church, York, on Wednesday, April 6th, 1932.

The wedding again caused great excitement, the Square in front of the Church being packed with thousands of interested people, and huge vans with sound film appeared belonging to three of the principal Gazettes and News Reels. It was a hectic day for all — but who cared? Mr. and Mrs. Stoddart at last felt they were really married, and that was all that mattered.



Left: Mr. and Mrs. Stoddart during the Ceremony at Greta Green.
Right: Talkie Cameras and Sound Apparatus outside St. Michael's Church, York.



Mr. and Mrs. George Stoddart and their Wedding Party.

MIDGET WEDDINGS (continued)

MARRIAGE OF VIVIAN PASCOE AND DOLLY GRIFFITHS



Vivian Pascoe, Dolly Griffiths and Bridesmaids

The next marriage was that of Vivian Pascoe and Dolly Griffiths. The wedding took place at St. Barnabas' Church, Mitcham, Surrey, on August 14th, 1932.

Though this wedding was kept as secret and as quiet as possible, as usual, the news leaked out and a large crowd assembled outside the church. Sound films were taken of the ceremony and the reception and many fine photographs printed in the daily papers.

"CYNIC'S" COMMENTS

I know a respectable man who keeps three wives — both his sons are married.

The woman who throws herself at a man's head knows it is his soft spot.

Marriages start in heaven and end in the tabloids.

There's no fool like an old fool acting like a young fool.

IF IN DOUBT SEE
MADAME ELSIE
THE WORLD FAMOUS
MIDGET PALMIST

WEDDING OF EDITH WALTON AND ARTHUR KAYE

The latest marriage to be solemnized was that of Arthur Kaye, 28-year-old singer, to Edith Walton, 34-year-old gymnast and trapeze artiste. This took place during the South African tour at Durban in August 1937.

Every endeavor was made to keep this wedding quiet, but somehow the news appeared in the Press and was even announced over the Radio, with the result that on arrival at the Church thousands of people were waiting to see the little couple. The Bride, Groom and Attendants had to be carried over the heads of the crowd into the Church; one Press photographer managed to get into the church and a photo of the actual ceremony appeared in the local paper!

About 200 guests, including the Lady Mayoress of Durban, were invited to the reception, but in spite of special invitation cards, over 500 people eventually "gate-crashed" the Banquet Hall, the police being unable to keep back some of the too-persistent admirers. Despite these incidents the little couple had a very happy wedding day and then went on a tour of the Game Reserve for their honeymoon.

Top Right: Wedding Party and Mayoress of Durban.

Bottom Right: The Bridesmaids.

Below: A Kiss for the Bride.



EVEN "CYNIC" GETS CHEERFUL
at the
MIDGET BAR RESTAURANT

CAN MIDGETS HAVE BABIES?

This is a question that is asked repeatedly, especially during weddings among the Midgets.

Several Midgets at present living have children, usually of normal size. One English couple under 3 feet in height have a fine boy about three years old who is bigger than either mother or father. There is another Midget between 60 and 70 years of age who has two sons, both of whom are over six feet in height, and hold prominent positions in Medicine and Law.

There is a family in Australia, the father over 6 feet in height and the mother a well proportioned woman of 5 feet seven inches, who have a family of thirteen children, with the exception of one all fully grown normal people. The exception is a little man of twenty-three years, who was only six and a half inches tall when born, and grew to eighteen and a half inches at the age of twenty-one.

Midgets do not beget Midgets except on rare occasions.

History records Francisco Leporati, born in Italy in 1730. He was three feet five inches tall. He married in his thirties a normal woman who gave birth to nine children, five of whom were Midgets. One of his sons married twice, each wife being a normal sized woman. By his first wife he had four normal children, by his second — four Midget sons!

The New York Times reported of Mrs. Henry Blosser at her death in 1932 — "At birth it is said that she could be placed into a quart cup, and that her hands were so small that a grain of corn would cover them, and that a fifty cent piece would hide her face." This infinitesimal creature — weighing only nine and a half pounds at the age of nine — had as her progeny 15 children, 80 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren!

When Midgets were in high royal favor, Isabelle d'Este, first wife of Joachim Frederick, Elector of Brandenburg, and her sister Beatrice, wife of Count Ludovici, vied with each other in the retinue of Midgets. Special quarters were built in their palaces scaled to diminutive proportions. Beatrice, although mother of two children, spent days with her live, doll-like creatures.

At this time Catherine de Medici, Princess Natalia, sister of Peter the Great of Russia, and Isabelle d'Este conceived the idea of mating Midgets to propagate their breed.

As these matings were often by royal command, rather than by choice, it was an unhappy experiment. Natalia learned that Midgets gave birth to normal babies, and, in those days of limited surgical knowledge, led not to birth of other Midgets but to death in child-birth. So strongly did she feel about the unwisdom of these "experimental" marriages that she appealed to the Tsar, her brother, to issue a decree forbidding the nobles to instigate these Midget marriages, as "Midgets did not beget Midgets".

A remarkable mother was Judith Skinner, only two feet two inches tall and married happily for twenty-three years to her Midget husband Robert, two feet one inch tall. She gave birth to fourteen normal-sized, healthy children, all of whom grew to adulthood. She survived fourteen Caesarean operations, a year and a half apart from each other.

After the pair had retired from public exhibition and the large family had used up all its money, Robert Skinner in 1742 went on exhibition in London with his wife and all their children and within two years retired again with over £20,000 (\$110,000).

Mrs. Tom Thumb gave birth to a three pound baby girl who died within a year.

The union of Richard Gibson and Ann Shephard, both three feet ten inches, resulted in nine normal-sized children, five of whom grew to men and women of normal size who were a great joy to them in their old age.

—○—

- A. A funny thing happened to my Mother in Washington.
- B. I thought you said you were born in Boston.

—○—

- C. Five puppies were born in my ash-can.
- D. No doubt the mother was attracted by the notice "For Litter."

—○—

- E. Babies are like rain, they come from heaven.
- F. (Father of 12) I think I'll buy an umbrella.

CALL AT
MIDGET TOWN POST OFFICE
AND VIEW OUR SPECIAL STAMPS

RELAXATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Throughout the ages it has seemed that man has enjoyed his relaxation the more while being regaled by Song, Dance and Story.

The Romans were well aware of this truth, and on their important holidays put on quite super shows; these were a little "Circusy" as to taste and rather ran to "Nero's Stupendous Untrained Lion Ensemble" with "Chorus of Galloping Martyrs". 'Tis said that Caligula used whimsically to dip a few slaves in oil and use them as human torches, thus no doubt forerunning the spotlighting effects used in the Midget Town Theatre.

The medieval Lord of the Manor was presumably more humane. He savoured his entertainment with jesters, harpists and minstrels. One cannot help a suspicion though, that were the jests too sorry, the unfortunate bards a little later

provided both food and frolic for the bloodhounds baying in the court-yard.

Then in the Naughty Nineties we come to the Can-Can at the Moulin Rouge. Thus sadism went out, sauciness crept into the fare and so began the leg show phase.

Morris Gest has travelled a long way from all these styles in presenting the Midget Town Theatre. What this entertainment has lost in ferocity, it has gained in taste and technique.

The ingredients of the show have been carefully chosen, a little humour, a little pathos, a spice of song and a sprinkling of dance, a measure of music and a pinch of thrills, gently stirred and blended together by a master hand. Morris Gest produces a dish fit for a King.



The Wedding of the Dolls



Edith Rollason



Ronnie Street



The Red Knights

PROGRAMS

The Midgets are so versatile that it would take nearly two days to present all of their offerings, various shows are given during the day selected from the following items:—

SCENES

1. The Red Knights of Lilliput.
2. Ratoucheff's Parade of the Wooden Soldiers.
3. Midget Town Air Force.
4. The Dresden China Ballet.
5. The Dolls Wedding.
6. The Parade of the Grenadier Guards.
7. The Follies Cabaret.
8. The Blue and White Guards.
9. A Little Dutch Garden.
10. Circus Days.

BANDS

11. The Midget Melody Makers.
12. The Continental Swing Band.
13. Hermines Military Band.
14. The Rhythm Four.

VOCALISTS

15. Edith Rollason.
16. Mary Best.
17. Sadie McDonald.
18. Maria Sandrina.
19. Florence Chrysler.
20. Babette Ledair.
21. Theresa Roblicka.
22. Mary Ellen Burbach.
23. Esther Howard.
24. Ila May Riddle.
25. Arthur Kaye.
26. Roy Penney.
27. The Harmony Trio.

COMEDIANS

28. Ronnie Street.
29. Andre Ratoucheff.
30. Vince and Bobby.
31. Jimmy Wetton.
32. Geoffrey Barrett.

DANCERS

33. Ratoucheff Co. — Holland.
34. Tyrolean — Fritz and Hilda.
35. The Tiny Tappas.
36. Esther Howard — Hawaiian.

NOVELTY ITEMS

37. The Ten Acrobats.
38. Pepi on the Trapeze.
39. Edith Kaye on the Ladder.
40. The Eight Trick Cyclists.
41. The Girls on the Ropes.
42. Fritz Soucek on the Pole.
43. Mimi Krisch with the Iron Teeth.
44. Pepi and Hilda, Wire Walkers.
45. The Rag Painter.
46. The Three Hoboes.
47. Mary Ellen Burbach "Acrobatics."
48. Elsie and Sadie, Trapeze.
49. The Flea-Weight Boxing Contest.
50. Leonard, Semon and Sonia, Mirthful Magicians.



Mimi Krisch with the Iron Teeth

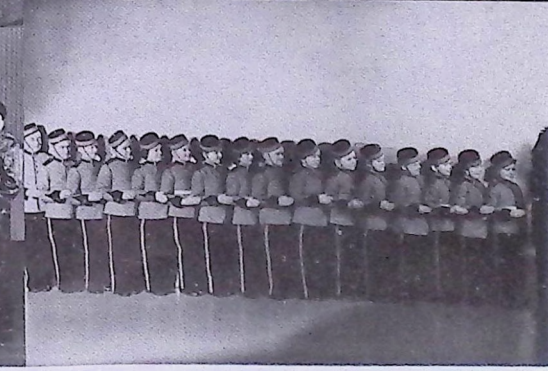
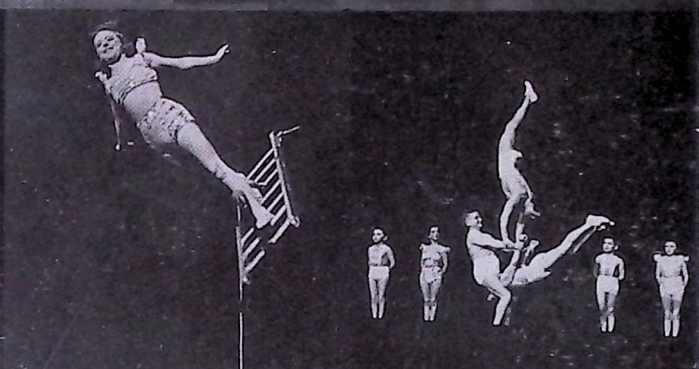


Entertaining Entertainers



Willie and Hilda — Apache

SCENES FROM THE SHOWS



SCENES FROM THE SHOWS (continued)



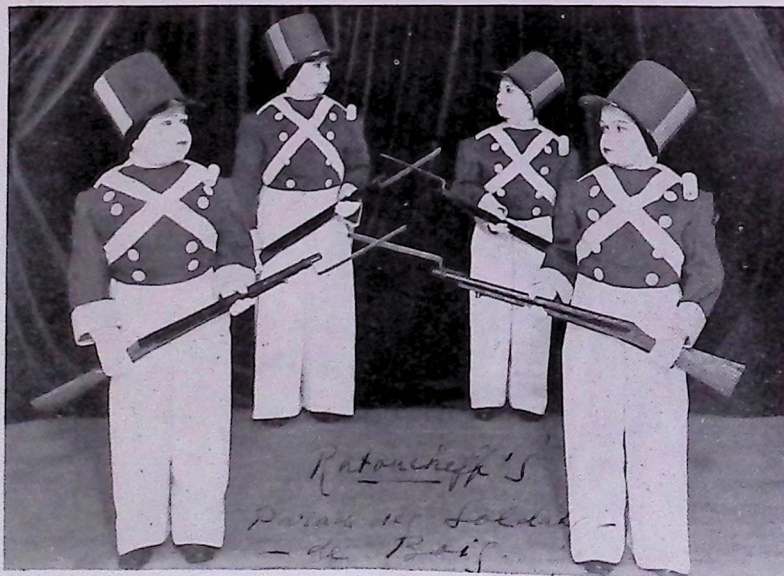
Morris Gest and Andre Ratoucheff as Morris Gest



Andre Ratoucheff's "Carmen"



Hilda & Fritz — Dresden Dancers



Ratoucheff's Parade of the Wooden Soldiers

SCENES FROM THE SHOWS (continued)



Above: The Continental Swing Band



Left: Fritz and Hilda — Tyrolean Dance

Right: Pepi on the Trapeze

Below: Pepi on the Wire





The Harmony Trio



The Midget Melody Makers

The Midget Ladies Dressing Room

(Heard through the Keyhole)

—○—

A. What do you think of my new engagement ring?

B. When is it coming off?

—○—

C. Were you entertaining a man in your house last night?

D. That's for him to say.

—○—

E. I hear Sheila is now a leading light in the cinema world.

F. Yes, I heard her say "Seats in the centre aisle please."

—○—

G. Why is it you have so many boy friends?

H. I give up.

—○—

I. I hear Dolly married a man of culture.

J. Yes, agri-culture.

—○—

K. Everyone sniffs at my Bill.

L. Yes, he's a bad egg.

—○—

MIDGET MATTERS

A famous spy of the French Revolution was Le Petit M. Richebourg. In the service of the Duchess of Orleans, mother of Louis Philippe, the Midget Richebourg dressed as a baby and passed through the gates of Paris in the arms of a nurse-maid, a fellow conspirator. He carried important royalist military secrets hidden in his baby clothes. He was undoubtedly the strangest spy in history — certainly the smallest!

One of the most important marriages in Midget history was the wedding of Richard

Gibson and Jane Shepherd (Ann Shepard), Midgets of Henrietta Maria, Queen of Charles I. Being exactly the same size, three feet ten inches, they were "made for each other." The wedding was the motive for a gigantic celebration, and with great pomp and ceremony they were married in Hampton Court and attended by Royalty. It was a true love match.

The wedding of "General" Tom Thumb and Lavinia Warren caused such a sensation that it crowded the war news off the front page. For days they were front page copy.



Leonard, Semon and Sonia, Mirthful Magicians and Entertainers

MIDGET LAP-LANDERS

Two amusing stories are told of famous Midget "lap-landers."

When "Count" Joseph Borulwaski, the favorite of the Countess Humiecka, was presented at the Court in Vienna, the Empress Maria Theresa was so charmed by his diminutive perfections within his twenty-five inches that she impulsively took him upon her knee.

"What," she asked, "is the most wonderful thing you've seen in Vienna?"

"To see so little a man on the lap of so great a woman!" he replied gallantly.

That history repeats itself, but somewhat in reverse, is illustrated by the story of J. P. Morgan and the Midget.

It was at the time of the Senate Investigation in Washington when the business methods of the House of Morgan were under scrutiny. Morgan, the unapproachable, must be made human. Press photographers, hitherto roughly treated, were welcomed to "shoot" the mighty man in "shirt sleeves," just like home folks. This did not impress a veteran cameraman who had often been rebuffed by Morgan. Quite by acci-

dent he encountered Lya Graf, tiny even in Midget terms — one foot nine inches. A few minutes later, she was upon the knees of the banker, while the cameras ground away.

"Who are you, little girl?" asked Morgan.

"Why, I am the smallest woman in the world!"

"Woman, indeed!" The Morgan knees probably knocked, but he didn't drop her.

And if she remembered her Midget history, she might have been tempted to tell him how impressed she was to be "so little a woman on the lap of so great a man."

**YOU HAVE TIME FOR
A MEAL AND A DRINK
at the
MIDGET BAR
RESTAURANT**

EXCELLING AT SPORT

The Midgets' chief sport is swimming, and most of them are expert divers. Vivian Pascoe has won a silver cup and a bronze medal for his proficiency in that direction. At Jersey he distinguished himself by rescuing Little Lady Godiva, who was caught by a big wave while bathing and got carried out of her depth.

Samuel Thurling is a golfing enthusiast, and in an open midget golf championship at Bath in 1951, was awarded a silver cup. Last summer, the Midgets gave swimming exhibitions at Scarborough, Rhyl and Southport, England.

Little Lady Godiva, Ronnie Street and James Wetton, all went on a breathless spin round the "Wall of Death" at Scarborough, piloted by Fearless Winnie, the well-known young lady motor-cyclist. They certainly aren't troubled with nerves.

The Midgets formed a football team during their South African tour, and while at Durban, met the local Jockeys in a charity match which attracted about 8,000 people. The Midgets won the match by 4 goals to 1. A return game was arranged and again the Midgets won, this time 5-1. The Jockeys were determined to have their

revenge and travelled from Durban to Pietermaritzburg for a third and final game in which the Midgets proved the victors by 5 goals to 2.

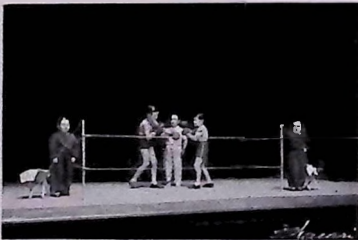


Aquatic Display. England



Midgets vs. Jockeys. South Africa

FLEA-WEIGHT TITLE BOUT. Referee JACK DEMPSEY



Sparring.....Jack separates the seconds



Counting.....Out!

