

CLOWNS GALORE



Chuckle Sheet

COAI Alley # 194—WCA Alley # 233

Volume 1, Issue 5

May, 2000

Parade Report

The next parade is the Sun & Fun Parade in Downtown Clearwater. The parade is May 6th, line up is @ 6:30 pm with an 7:30 pm start.

PCVI

The Third Annual Pinellas Center for the Visually Impaired "Clowning for Kids". Saturday May 13th from 10:00 am 'til 4:00 pm. At the Largo Cultural Center, 105 Central Park Drive. We need Face Painters, Balloon Artists and general buffooners to help entertain all the family and kids. For more information or to sign up, contact Chuck Shields @ 584-8631

Your Membership

This note is to inform everyone that they must be members of Clowns of America International. This is a mandatory requirement in the by-laws of Clowns Galore. If you have not provided your COAI membership number or proof of registering, your name will be dropped from the mailing list and thus will not receive this newsletter anymore. Please sign up with COAI and continue to receive this wonderful newsletter, plus gaining all the benefits of being a member of COAI.

Please sign up!!



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Upcoming May Meeting

Puppets, Puppets, Puppets!!

May we will have an experienced puppeteer to help

everyone with how to use their puppets and how to come up with stories or skits to use your puppet in. Crate 'em, Box 'em, Drag 'em, but bring those puppets for a wonderful evening of funny sounding voices :O)

'In every real man a child is hidden that wants to play'

- Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche



Note from the President

Well, spring is here and with it our parades, festivals and warm weather. Hope everyone joins in when we plan activities, and be sure to come prepared. Drink plenty of water, carry a bottle with you, and stay as cool as possible. A clown suffering from heat exhaustion is not funny!

I want to thank Itchee and Stitches for joining me at the Salvation Army's Easter Egg Hunt. Also, thanks to the phone committee for getting the word out. Sorry to say, I was contacted a few days after our meeting for this event-I did give them our meeting nights and a hint that it would be easier to get volunteers if we knew in advance of meetings.

Many of you have and are planning to be in the many parades this season--please give a report to Steve for this newsletter. Even a quick phone message with the # attended and a review would be great. We all can't be at every event, but this newsletter helps us keep in touch.

Please keep these members in your prayers --Bobbye "Sparkle" Grey, lost her brother this month and her husband has undergone back surgery (is recovering well). --Laverne "Maxie" Maxwell's husband has been ill --Nila "Stitches" Kinsell's husband also had surgery

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!!

What committee will you chair for Clown-a-Rama??

Let's have some new blood here (we only take a pint or so to run the event).

Face painting/ Balloons, Skits/MC, Parade leader, Publicity, Clown photos, Photo's with clown (different than above), Alley liaison/coordinator

I need chair people for each of these committees by the May meeting--I will have full job descriptions and you will receive help from last years committee chairs.

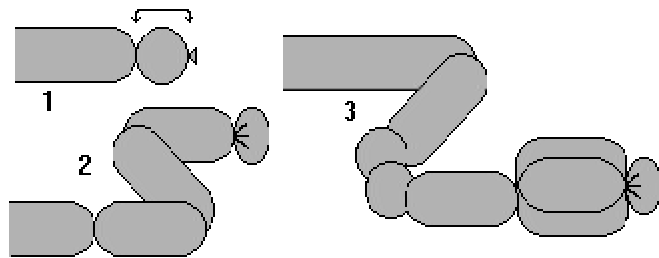
Thanks, Elaine "Berry-Merry" Pettit

Balloon Corner

Supplied by Professor Wonder's Wonder Factory <http://www.willinet.net/~gardner>

Make a Balloon Animal

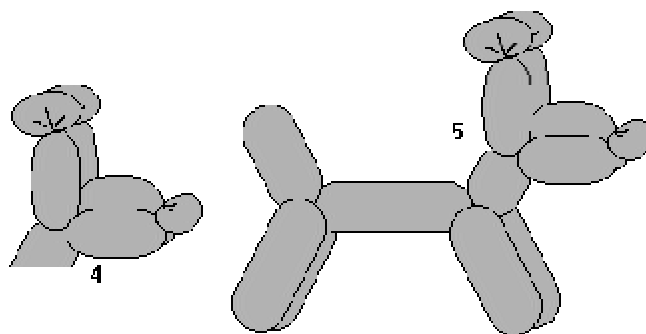
Here's an alternative when someone asks for a dog. It's a lot cuter than the standard weiner dog and no more difficult than a poodle. The dog's name is Old Petey, and was designed by Michael "Shag" Orock. He appeared in a newsletter published by T Myers who has granted permission to use it here. The basic instructions and accompanying story come from Chris Maxwell, a young balloon sculptor in Leavenworth, Kansas.



The Balloon

Here are the directions: 1-inch bubble, ear twisted for nose. Then, two x 2.5-inch bubbles twisted together. Another roughly 2-inch bubble rolled thru the 2.5-inchers. (This is often called a Bird Body.) This completes the nose and chops. Next, comes a series of a 2-inch, 1-inch, 1-inch, and 2-inch. Twist the final 2 inch back to the back of the chops. Ear twist each of the two 1-inchers for ears, and the 2-inchers become the eyes.

After that, you Lock Twist front and rear legs to finish it off with a regular dog body. The goal is to make a large, black, Labrador retriever.



The Story

Many years ago, when horses and buggies were the only mode of transportation, something incredible happened right here in Leavenworth, Kansas. A father took his daughter shopping one afternoon, and after awhile they decided to return home to take 'mother' along with them. They returned home, and while the daughter waited in the carriage, the father went inside to get the mother. While he was gone, something scared the horses, who took off running down the street at full speed. The little girl had a dog who happened to be laying on the front porch, and the dog took off after the horses. Catching up with the runaway horses, the dog jumped up, grabbed one of the halters, and began trying to stop the horses before they turned a corner to sharp and upset the carriage, which could have killed the little girl. The horses slowed, and eventually stopped, but the dog was trampled to death in the process.

The Message

Someone has already died to save our lives. We, like the little girl, are also on our way towards death, and we don't know when the carriage will 'roll over'. However, in order to be saved, we must accept what Jesus did for us and we need to allow Him to save us. **Christopher cmaxwell@smartnet.com**

Clown History

Clown History: Early Female Clowns by: Bruce Johnson



The stereotype many people have is that women have not been a part of clown history until recently. The opposite is the truth. Periods of history where there were no female clowns are rare. The first documented professional entertainers are the comic (clown) characters of the Dorian Mimes who started performing in ancient Greece during the seventh century BC. Although called mimes they were not silent actors. Their name came from their ability to mimic others. The Dorian Mime troupes included women who played the female clown roles. The clown tradition started by the Dorian Mimes lasted in Europe for at least a thousand years, and formed the foundation of most Greek and Roman classical theater. In Medieval England, itinerant male clowns were called Gleemen. Many of them worked in partnership with a "glee-maiden", a female clown who was a skilled musician, dancer, and acrobat. Glee-maiden's also worked on their own or as an assistant to male troubadours burlesquing his skill. Some of the intenerate entertainers were hired by royal courts or upper-class nobility and became jesters. There were many female jesters or fools. According to Dana Fradon, in *King's Fool*, "In medieval days buffonery was one of the few professions open to women. The wife of Seneca, a great Roman philosopher, retained a female fool. The most famous female jester was Mathurine, a seventeenth century jester who presided at the French court during the reigns three kings Henry III, Henry IV, and Louis XIII. Her costume was that of an Amazon warrior, including long flowing robes, armor, shield, and wooden sword. She was described as being pugnacious and outspoken. During her lifetime, satirists called themselves a Mathurine, and a specific type of burlesque writing is called mathurinade because it was associated with her style of comedy. When Mathurine was accompanying a lady of the court to an audience with the king, the woman turned to her and angrily said, "I don't like having a fool on my right side." Quickly moving to the woman's other side, Mathurine said, "I don't mind it at all." (This joke would later be adapted for use by nineteenth century clowns and ringmasters.) Mathurine was deeply religious. Some knights dedicated their swords to God, and Mathurine dedicated her marotte, a jester's wand, to God. Mathurine was known for her bravery. She helped capture a man who tried to assassinate

King Henry IV by blocking the doorway of the king's chambers so he couldn't escape. The Commedia Del Arte, which dominated European Theater from the sixteenth through eighteenth century, also had female clowns. The Commedia Del Arte characters were divided into three categories, the young lovers, the masters, and the servants called the zanni. The masters and servants were clown characters. The zanni instigated most of the action of the plot. Each troupe generally had three zanni, a clever male rogue, his dimwitted male victim, and a female. She participated in the intrigues of the main story, and a subplot involved a love interest between her and one of the male servants. Most of the male zanni characters had female counterparts. For example, Harlequina was the female version of Harlequin. There were also zanni characters that were exclusively female. These female zanni included Columbine, Franceschina, and Smeraldina. Commedia Del Arte served as the foundation for theatrical comedy. Many of the first comic plays created in Europe were based upon earlier Commedia Del Arte scenarios with characters based on the stock Commedia Del Arte characters. The Commedia Del Arte was also the foundation of the English Pantomime that flourished in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Three Commedia Del Arte characters were incorporated into the English Pantomime becoming stock characters. These three were Pantaloon, Harlequin, and Columbine. Other Commedia Del Arte characters were also sometimes used. Late in the eighteenth century, a fourth stock character, the whiteface clown, was added. Joseph Grimaldi, the father of modern clowning, made the Whiteface Clown the dominant character in the pantomimes beginning in 1800. In his performances, he worked with female clowns playing the supporting role of Columbine. So leading up to the modern era of clowning, women were very much a part of clown history.

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Website of the Month

Mama Clown

<http://www.mamaclown.com/>

Welcome to the most unique of companies! Imagine having someone plan, coordinate, and do your party as you would if you had the time, energy, and know-how. Caring, knowledgeable professionals will walk you through the process, gently guiding you to age appropriate entertainment, budget conscious planning and always individual panache.

Please take this time to survey our site and consider our services....you'll be glad you did!



CLOWNS GALORE

C/O Steve Fowler
985 Sunrise Circle
Palm Harbor, FL 34683



Next Meeting May 1st
Monday Night 7:00pm

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

We're on the Web
[http://www.geocities.com/
Broadway/Alley/3725/](http://www.geocities.com/Broadway/Alley/3725/)

Dates to Remember

This section will always have the latest dates and times to remember about coming events.

Every Wednesday – Tampa Bay Jugglers Club 7PM 4719 Prescott St, Tampa For details call Ed (813) 527-1716.

3rd Sunday (even Months only) - Storytellers Guild, Seminole Library.

All dates and times are subject to change. Please contact the appropriate group for any schedule changes and details.

Clowns Galore Officers

President:

Elaine "Berry Merry" Petit (727)572-7465

Vice President:

Steven "Bumper" Fowler (727)784-8206

Secretary:

Michele "NoseDive" Alonso (727) 524-1410

Treasurer:

Kerry "Luvy-Duvy" Bauer (727)588-2320

Board Members @ Large:

Kay "Pockets-D-Clown" Blaise
(727)586-5313

Pam "Itchee" Wolin
(727)796-1164

