

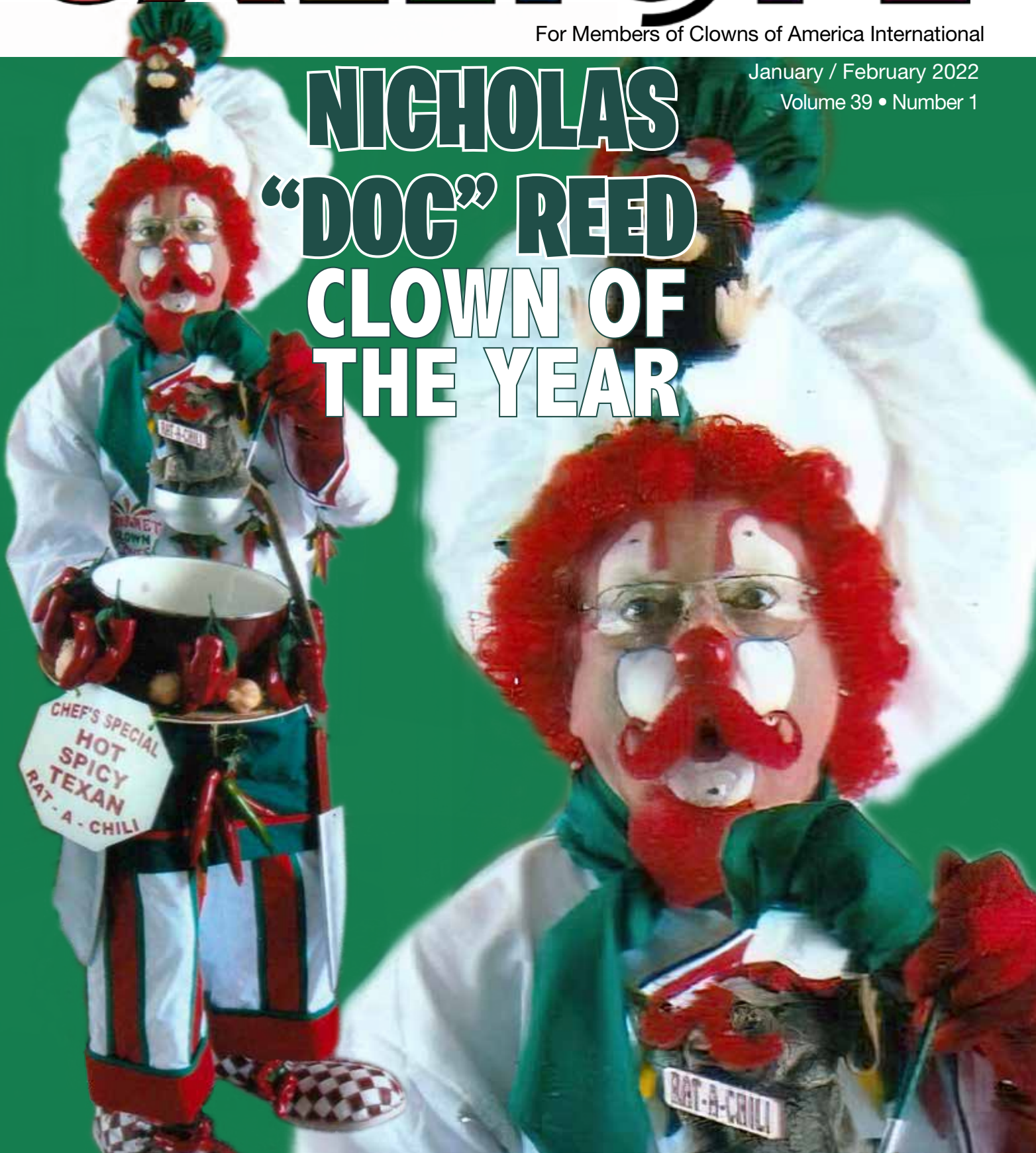
THE NEW CALLIÖPE

For Members of Clowns of America International

January / February 2022

Volume 39 • Number 1

NICHOLAS “DOC” REED CLOWN OF THE YEAR



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NICHOLAS “DOC” REED CLOWN OF THE YEAR

By Rose Cardenas

“You are limited only by your imagination and enthusiasm. I believe that one should set his or her goals in life high, work hard and never let anyone tell you that you cannot do it. We should all strive to leave this world better off than we found it.”

Those words indicate why Nicholas “Doc” Reed has been chosen as the 2022 COAI Clown of the Year. Doc Reed, who retired from a forty-year career as a doctor of obstetrics and gynecology, graduated from Toby’s Clown School in Lake Placid, Florida, in 2008, and his career devoted to serving his community through the art of clowning began. In fact, Doc feels as though his career in medicine continued as he made the transition from providing medical care as a doctor to providing healing therapy as a clown. For an article in *Florida Currents* magazine, Doc said, “I always had a reputation for clowning around. I could read nervous, anxious people pretty well and used humor to divert their attention. I thought, I can continue to use my skill in clown medicine.” He adds, “I feel clowning is a way I can give back to society and perhaps inspire others. I would like to make children and people of all ages happy and laugh. In the stressful world in which we live, perhaps I can help just a few I encounter to feel better. Helping those in the hospital filled with fear and anxiety, feel relieved and reassured is meaningful to me. Entertaining the aged and infirm and making those with dementia smile again is rewarding. How do you put a price tag on this?”

Since his initial studies at clown school, Nick has given much of his time, talents, and support to Toby’s Clown Alley, Toby’s Clown School, Toby the Clown Foundation, and Toby’s American Clown Museum near his home in Lake Placid, Florida. He has taught many classes at the clown school, including those on makeup, clown safety, paradeability, walk-arounds, and hospital clowning. He also arranged the donation of an Emmett Kelly figurine collection, valued at more than \$40,000, to the American Clown Museum, and leads tours of the museum, as well.

Nick lectures in venues throughout the community to share his knowledge with others, specifically related to humor in clowning and healing therapy, at local clubs and hospitals. He also gives lectures related to the hobo clown. As he has said, “What good is knowledge if you do not share it?” In addition to his membership to COAI, Doc Reed

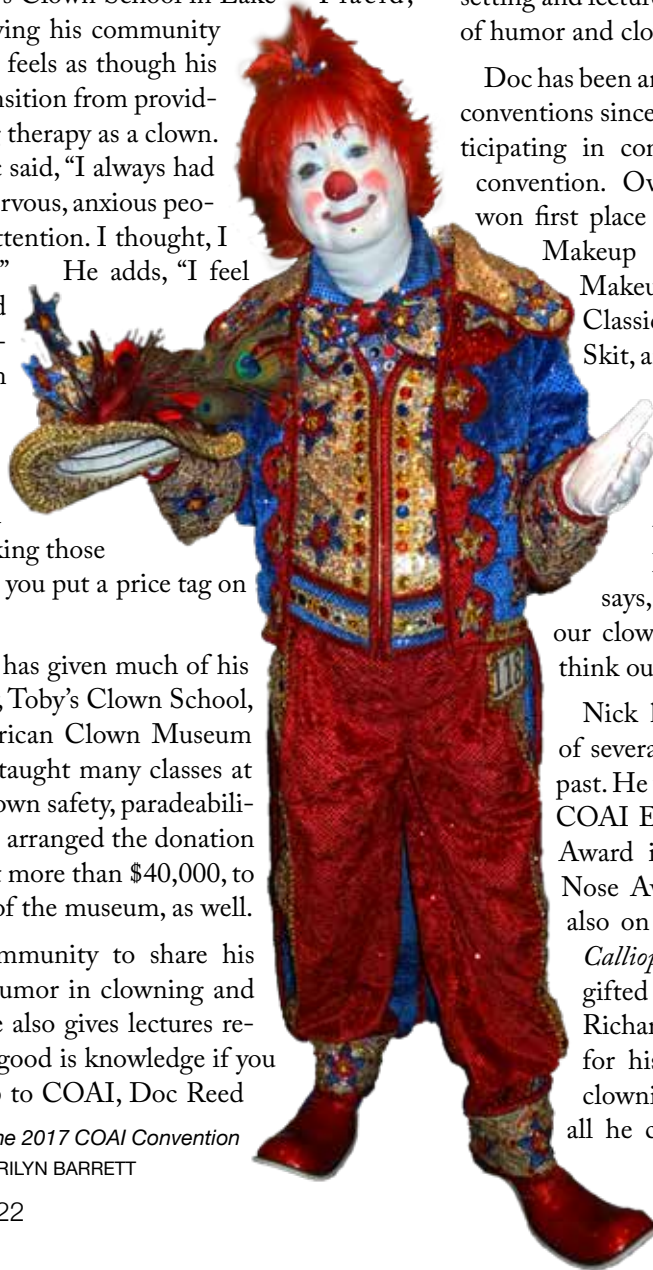
Comedy Whiteface, second place, at the 2017 COAI Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. PHOTO BY MERILYN BARRETT

is a member of World Clowns, South East Clown Association, Toby’s Clown Alley, and the Rotary and Elks Clubs. Richard “Design-O” Smith comments, “Nick is admired for the knowledge he shares with others. He has a true clown heart, as is seen in his down-to-earth demeanor.”

Ann “Tuttles” Sanders, who wrote an endorsement for this honor, said, “It takes a special individual to be a clown. It takes a special clown to be Clown of the Year. Doc is both.” She adds, “Doc’s focus is now on serving his community through the art of clowning. He has traded his use of traditional medicine for humor and generously shares smiles and laughter with his audience. He is an advocate of clowning as a part of a hospital setting and lectures on the healing power of humor and clowning, in general.”

Doc has been an integral part of COAI conventions since 2009. Nick began participating in competitions at his first convention. Over the years, he has won first place in Makeup Character, Makeup Senior, Tramp/Hobo Makeup, Lite Auguste, Classic Whiteface, Group Skit, and Single Paradeability competitions. Alan Flag, a longstanding competition judge at COAI, once referred to Nick as the “prop king of COAI.” Nick says, “I love the creativity of our clowns and their ability to think outside the box.”

Nick has been the recipient of several COAI awards in the past. He was the recipient of the COAI Excellence in Clowning Award in 2019 and the Red Nose Award in 2009. He was also on the cover of *The New Calliope* in 2015, an honor gifted to him by his friend, Richard “Design-O” Smith, for his “outstanding love of clowning, his desire to learn all he can about the art, and



his charity work.” Doc also contributed a description of his clown car to the July/August 2014 issue of *The New Calliope*.

As part of his packet nominating Nick for the Clown of the Year Award, Richard wrote, “His impact on the clown community is exemplified by the fact that he is as respected as a professional medical doctor as he is as a clown. Doc is always willing to share of himself to help others in need in any way. He is selfless and dedicates a hundred fifty percent of himself.”

Reed has not only contributed his healing therapy, knowledge, and time. Throughout his involvement in clowning, he has donated COAI memberships, paid for the performance competition catalogs in 2018, copies of convention competition rules in 2014, and donated several items for fundraising auctions.

Deborah von Arx, president of the Toby the Clown Foundation, submitted a letter on Nick’s behalf, as well, writing in part, “Doc has been a prestigious person for the Lake Placid community and Toby the Clown Foundation for many years. Over many years, Doc has emphasized smiles, love, and laughter in the art of clowning. He thoroughly enjoys himself dressed up as a clown and spreading cheer to everyone.”

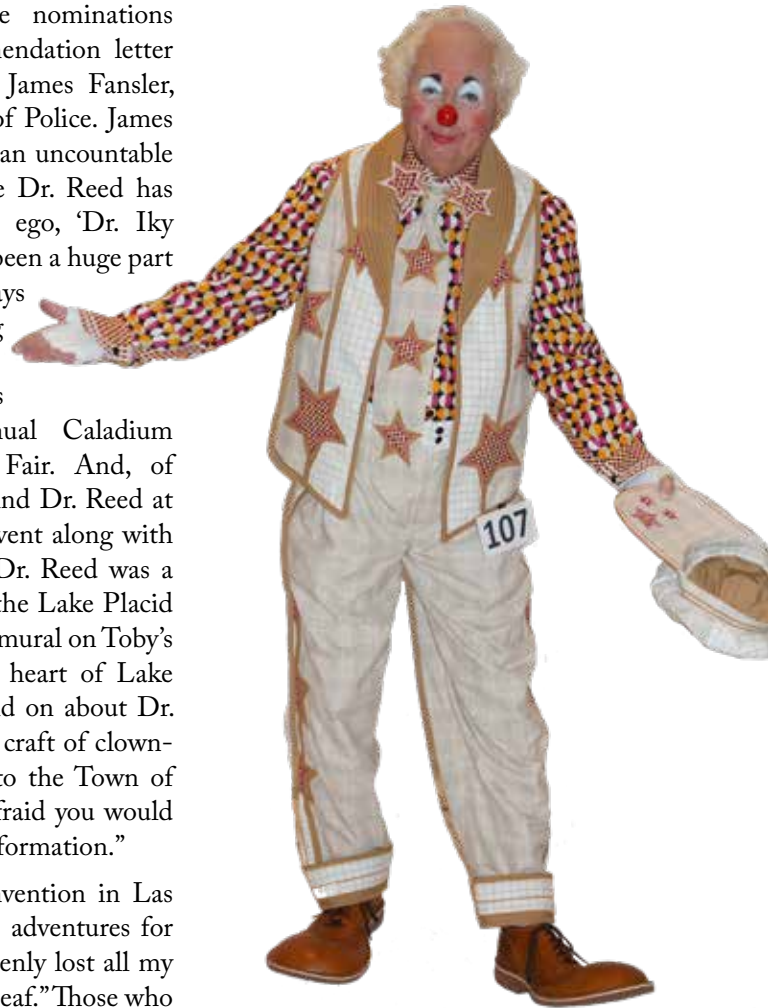


Dr. Nicholas E. Reed.

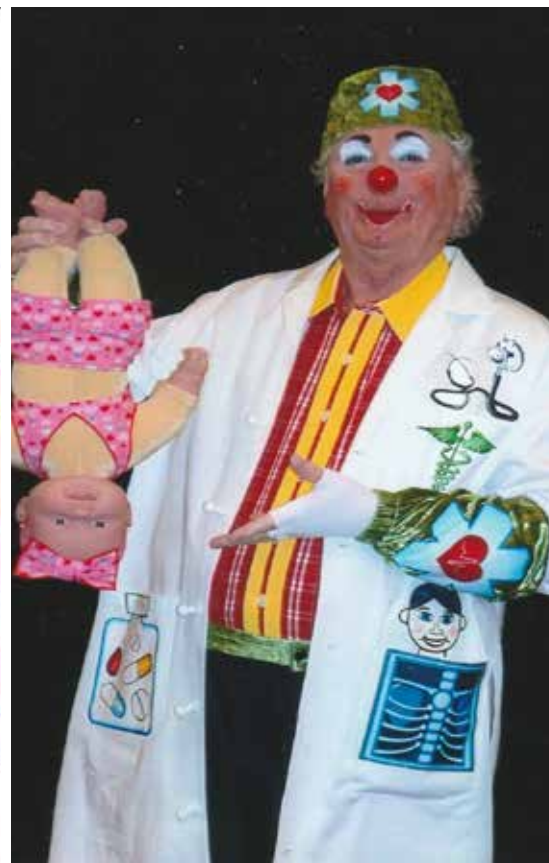
In addition to these nominations from clowns, a recommendation letter was also received from James Fansler, the Lake Placid Chief of Police. James writes, “I have attended an uncountable number of events where Dr. Reed has performed as his alter ego, ‘Dr. Iky Nicky.’ The clowns have been a huge part of the town. You can always count on them to bring smiles to any public event, such as Christmas parades and our annual Caladium Festival and Country Fair. And, of course, you can always find Dr. Reed at our annual Halloween event along with the rest of the clowns. Dr. Reed was a driving force in getting the Lake Placid Mural Society to paint a mural on Toby’s Clown Museum in the heart of Lake Placid. I could go on and on about Dr. Reed’s dedication to the craft of clowning and his dedication to the Town of Lake Placid, but I am afraid you would be reading volumes of information.”

The 2019 COAI Convention in Las Vegas held some unique adventures for Nick. He recalls, “I suddenly lost all my hearing and was totally deaf.” Those who witnessed Doc being wheeled out of the convention hotel by paramedics clearly remember him quipping, “Paradeability!”

Nick was diagnosed with Meniere’s Disease, an autoimmune disorder and has since had two cochlear implants. He still has very limited hearing. He says, “I am reliant on closed-captions on television and have difficulty on the telephone. I can only hear about fifty percent of conversation in a quiet setting. Background noise leaves me virtually deaf, despite the implants. I hope one day to attend a COAI convention in Florida, where I could drive and have someone with me to be ‘my ears.’ I am sincerely hoping to overcome my handicap. I hope to return to convention competitions, but I especially miss the camaraderie of many friends at COAI. As time goes by, I realize that camaraderie and friendship at COAI mean more to me than a high score in competition.”



Doc won first place in Lite Auguste at the 2016 COAI Convention in Las Vegas. PHOTOS BY MERILYN BARRETT



Left: Ready for Paradeability. Center: Nancy and Nicholas E. Reed, M.D. Right: After a forty-year career as an OB-GYN, Dr. Reed continued delivering babies—in clown!

Nick says, “To be awarded Clown of the Year 2022 is humbling to me. I owe a lot of my success to my best friend and mentor, Richard Smith (Design-O). I have looked up to previous award winners with admiration. I would like to thank Teresa and Bob Gretton and the awards committee for considering me worthy of this award. I know Toby would be proud of this honor bestowed upon me. I am also blessed to have a wonderful caring wife. This year, we will be celebrating fifty-seven years of married life.”

Finally, Doc reminds us, “Laughter is good medicine.” **TNC**

TIMELINE

1965 Graduated from medical school.
1963-2007 Practiced OB/GYN medicine, delivering 12,000 babies.

2008 Graduated from Toby’s Clown School.

2008-2018 Clowning in community of Lake Placid, Florida, at local parades, clubs, schools, churches, and festivals.

2008 Joined COAI, Toby’s Clown Alley, World Clown, and South East Clown Association.

2009 Attended first COAI Convention and has attended every convention since then except three.

2009-2018 Instructor at Toby’s Clown School and taught Junior Joeys classes at Toby’s Clown Alley.

2009 Joined the board of directors for Toby’s Clown Alley and Foundation.

2009 Toby’s Clown Alley, Red Nose Award.

2009 Began hospital and nursing home visitations.

2010 First place, Makeup Character, “Chef Rat-A-Chile.”

2011-2012 Participated in Toby’s Clown cruises.

2011 First place, Makeup Senior, “Master Somali Wine Master.”

2013 First place, Makeup Character, “Clown of Yesteryear.”

2014 First place, Tramp/Hobo.

2014 First place, Single Paradeability, “Smile.”

2016 First place, Group Paradeability, “Mobile Dentist.”

2016 First place, Lite Auguste.

2018 First place, Classic Whiteface.

2019 COAI Excellence in Clowning Award.

2022 COAI Clown of the Year.

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online merchandise store

We are super excited to announce that we have set up an online merchandise store for all of the coolest COAI gear to make your friends jealous! At the moment we have three different designs, with many different merchandise options for those designs. A portion of all sales comes back to support COAI and help us to keep dues low and provide quality benefits for our members! We have everything from T-shirts, sweatshirts, onesies, phone cases, mugs—you name it! Everything is available in men’s, women’s, children’s, and babies’ sizes. And they all come in a huge rainbow of different colors! You can check it out at www.teespring.com/stores/coai.





From the President

Adam Schill

Hello, COAI! I hope you're all doing well. We're getting closer to our convention! If you haven't registered yet, there's still time, but don't forget, the price goes up at the door. Save yourself some money and register in advance. (Then, turn around and spend what you saved in the dealer's room!)

I want to take this issue's column to congratulate Dr. Nicolas Reed, or Doc as many of us know him, on his 2022 Clown of the Year accomplishment! Clown of the Year is a great honor, and I can't think of anyone more deserving than Doc. He truly lives and breathes COAI.

I first met Doc in 2009 at the COAI Convention in Clarksville, Indiana. If I remember correctly, he was relatively new to clowning or COAI, at least, at that time. I'd been clowning for a few years, but that was my first COAI convention. I remember talking to Doc a few times, and I appreciated his humor and clown character.

After that, I was relatively uninvolved in COAI for a few years as I was getting married, having children, and busy with young adult life. I remember reading stories about him in *The New Calliope* during that time and thinking back to when I had met him in Clarksville.

I didn't run into him again until we were in Richmond in 2018. He had a beautiful classic whiteface costume

covered in rhinestones for the makeup competition that Richard Smith had made for him. I looked at it and wondered how long it took to attach all those sparkles. (He ended up winning First Place in the Classical Whiteface competition.)

At the convention in Las Vegas in 2019, I was serving as Director of Education. My wife and I arrived at the convention a day early so that I could help with some of the set-up, board preparations, and anything else that was needed. That afternoon, we were sitting in one of the common areas near the convention center when Doc came and sat with us. We sat talking for at least an hour or two. We talked a little clowning, but we also talked about life. We learned that he was the same age and attended the same university as my wife's grandfather who had been a dentist. We wondered if they had had any of the same pre-med classes before the two fields split paths.

Then the incident occurred at the convention from which Doc lost his hearing. I ran up to Doc's room before the paramedics got there. As he was headed down the hallway on his gurney, he shouted out, "How's this for paradeability?!" All the tension and anxiety seemed to fade away. It's this attitude and the ability to bring light to nearly any situation that cements Doc's place as a clown and asset to COAI.

Congrats, Doc! You deserve it! **TNC**

PHOTO BY MERILYN BARRETT



HAVE YOU TOLD A FRIEND ABOUT COAI?

**Give an application
or gift a membership today!**





From the Director of Education

By Alene Klaus

Are you ready for the COAI Convention? I sure hope so because we are “Knocking It Outta the Park!” We will have these amazing events:

Thirty instructors offering fifty-four different classes!

A master class with Lee Andrews for those who registered early.

A day-long pre-convention workshop.

A full vendors’ room packed with everything you will want to purchase.

Spectacular and internationally renowned entertainment, theme party, hospitality suite, auction, competitions, jams, two great dinners, and a Hollywood star!

This is a grand slam of a convention! See you there, and don’t forget to bring your items for the auction!

TNC



From the Director of Conventions

By Frank Bunton

I hope you are getting excited about the COAI Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, April 26-30. How many read the cover story in *The New Calliope* about our headliner, Misha Usov? I am looking forward to seeing him at the

convention. The article mentions that he wrote a book called *The Invisible Clown*, so I bought a copy on Amazon and have been reading and enjoying it. I hope to get him to sign it at the convention. Even if you are not coming to the convention

(and why aren’t you?) you will find his book thought-provoking.

Have you also heard that Bozo will be at our convention, too? I remember as a boy of five or six going to the television studio and sitting in the audience for a Bozo show.

In the next issue of *The New Calliope*, you will see who is running for office in our 2022 elections. To give you a preview—yes, I’m hoping to retain my position as your Director of Conventions.

In the meantime, see you at the convention! TNC

Let’s Hit the COAI Auction Out of the Park!

You can help by donating items to include in our auction. The funds from the auction go to the COAI Educational Scholarship Fund. Look in your closets. Look in your bins for those special clown collectibles and memorabilia. Bring them with you to the convention. If you can’t bring them, send them with a friend. Contact me with any questions.

Thank you!

Alene “Rufflez” Kraus

COAI Director of Education





Are You Still Clowning?

By Cinda "Rainshine" Johnson

She was born on the fourth of July in the foothills of Mt. Hood in a tiny community called ZigZag almost forty years ago. It was, of course, not her idea to be born. It was God's plan. That person – me – who carried that seed of God's plan was in conflict with God for quite a while. "God, you've chosen the wrong person. I don't want to be a clown. I don't even like clowns," I said. He replied, "No, you're the one I've chosen, and this is not a mistake. Trust me."

The more I resisted the idea, the more God put things in front of me that pointed in the direction of His lead. I was always afraid people would judge me for my belief in God. I was insecure about how others would view me because I was a short, feisty red head that could be quite outspoken at times.



My personality and image helped camouflage my insecurities of not feeling accepted. I just didn't feel like I could be me without fear of rejection. I continued wrestling with God, but the idea slowly started making sense to me. I could hide behind a different persona, make people laugh, use the theatrical skills I learned in my high school and college drama classes and tell them about God – without fear of rejection.

Where could I begin? The Portland phone book's yellow pages. Do you remember those? There was only one clown listed in the book. I don't even remember his name, but I called and mentioned to him I was interested in becoming a clown. I asked if we could meet so he could point me in the right direction of makeup, wigs, and costumes. That was all I needed to be a clown, right? I put on some strange, oversized clothes

from a thrift store, spread white grease paint all over my face, placed a rainbow wig on my head, and I was ready. I was the most incredibly bad clown there was. All I needed at that point was to put my heart into it.

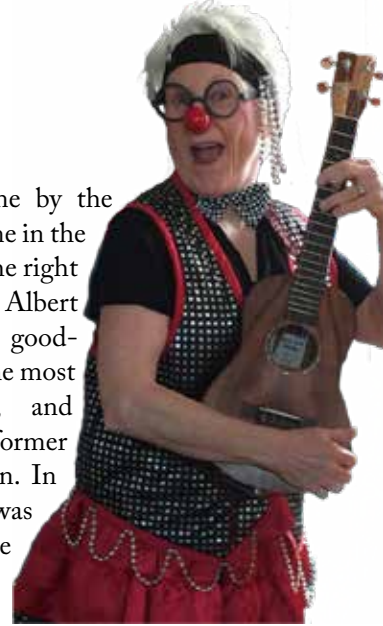


God took me by the hand and put me in the right place at the right time. Enter Albert Alter. Oh, my goodness! He was the most perfect, kind, and awesome performer I had ever seen. In addition, he was a clown. He did an amazingly poignant and emotional theatrical presentation at a church as a simple-minded, quiet character with very little makeup and no words. Wow! I wept because God spoke to me through Albert's powerful piece. He spoke straight to my heart and showed me the power of clowning.

"Rainshine" the clown was born. I chose the name as a reference to the ups and downs we experience in life, the heartaches and happiness, the good times and bad.

Just like all living beings, it takes a while to grow into yourself, to know who you are. So it was with my clown. As we age, we change and morph. I started out like sandpaper on a splintered surface, and over time, God has smoothed out the rough areas and given me opportunities to show compassion and love and bring light to others. I feel grateful for all I've learned from my experiences in clowning.

What I know to be true is that the clown in me has always been me and no one else. Rainshine is an extension of who I am. As long as I'm breathing, my clown is alive. When I'm asked the question, "Are you still clowning?" The answer is yes. I am always loving, smiling, and sharing. And that makes my God happy. **TNC**





JUNIOR JOEYS

Pin Program in The Vault

By Regina “Cha Cha” Wollrabe, *Junior Joeys Director*



We saw a fun overview of *The New Calliope* on the front and back covers of the November/December issue. Nine of the magazines featured contain articles about our Jr. Joey Pin Program. To make it easy to find the pins that have been created so far, I've made this chart. Login to the website (www.mycoai.com) to access the Vault. Then click on the issue to find the criteria page and article that goes with each pin. Some pins even have a video on the COAI Jr. Joey YouTube channel. There

are more pins to come! The Vault contains education galore, and I hope you will take the time to explore and find your favorite articles and ideas. You can also be included in our magazine. Send me your stories! We want to share what Jr. Joeys are doing and learning. Email me at coaijrjoeys@gmail.com. Bump a nose! **TNC**

<p>Mar-Apr 2017</p>   <p>Balloons</p>	<p>Jul-Aug 2017</p>   <p>Clown Character</p>	<p>Sep-Oct 2017</p>   <p>Birthday Party</p>
<p>Jan-Feb 2018</p>   <p>Convention</p>	<p>Mar-Apr 2018</p>   <p>Spinning Plates</p>	<p>Nov-Dec 2018</p>   <p>Clown Ethics</p>
<p>Mar-Apr 2019</p>   <p>Magic</p>	<p>May-Jun 2019</p>   <p>Beginning Juggling</p>	<p>Jul-Aug 2021</p>   <p>Mime</p>

Be Funny in the Skin You're in!

By Pricilla Mooseburger

To be successful clowns, we need to develop good habits. Start thinking like a clown before you put your makeup on. People are funny. If you just sit and watch, you will see some great characters appear right before your eyes. People watching at airports can be as entertaining as going to the movies!

Abe Lincoln said, "Whatever you are, be a good one." That is great advice for a clown! What I love best about clowns is that they come in all shapes and sizes. There is one for every occasion! Rowdy crazy ones, sweet shy ones, wisecracking ones, and silly, wacky, thoughtful, tall, short, round, and thin ones. You name it. What kind of clown are you? What kind of clown do you want to be? Of course, we all want to be funny clowns. Not many of us want to be unfunny. However, the trick comes in how we go about being funny. Some of us are naturally funny, so it comes easy to us, but even a person who is naturally the life of the party has to work at it.

How do you work at being funny? First, you need to do a bit of self-discovery. Take a close look at yourself by doing this evaluation; some example answers are provided.

Think of five words that describe your personality, in clown and out.

Mischievous, witty, silly, determined, wacky.

Think of some words that describe your style of movement.

Energetic, clumsy, graceful, stylized, relaxed.

Describe your body shape.

Long, lean, fluffy, round (Hey, it's a shape!).

Do you get the picture? Everyone's answers will be different.

I discovered that the words I use to describe myself have changed over the forty years I have been clowning. Pricilla Mooseburger became Miss Moose when I needed to wear glasses and needed a change.

What have you discovered about yourself? The best clown characters are reflections of who you are. If you take your own personality and stretch it like silly putty, you will come up with a character that is believable. Clowning isn't acting. It is self-discovery on parade. Try to think of things you can do with your own body that would be funny.

Don't be afraid or ashamed of your body type. Embrace it and enjoy it! Don't be afraid to be funny in the skin you are in!

How do you prepare your brain to be funny? Think of what makes you laugh. Some things always make me laugh. Certain Weird Al Yankovich songs crack me up because they are a little too honest. Veggie Tales make me laugh because they are creative and silly. Carol Burnett makes me laugh. I love her expressions and physicality. She is not particularly beautiful, and she doesn't have a drop-dead figure,



but she makes people laugh. I have always admired her and often think, "What would Carol do?"

Most of you know I started my professional clown career with Ringling Bros. in the early 1980s. There was only one other female clown I could watch for guidance, and that was Tammy Parish. I watched her perform and was inspired with my own ideas. The goal of every clown should be to take a funny idea and make it your own. Without Tammy, I would have had to start from scratch. (Thanks, girlfriend!)

If you need some inspiration to be funny, do your homework. Prime the pump with all kinds of things that make you laugh. Collect your favorite cartoons. Create your own laugh library. Add anything that lifts your spirit and makes you smile, chuckle, or squirt milk out your nose! It might take some work to do this, but it is worth it. You will learn more about yourself and where you keep your funny bone. What makes you laugh indicates the character of your clown. It will help you develop your funny side.

Sometimes being funny is making fun of yourself. That can be tough, but it always works. Early in my career with Ringling, I found that it was funny to see a pretty clown fall down. The humor came from the unexpected. You see this doll clown image, and something happens that is the opposite of what is expected. Pricilla Mooseburger was a beautiful, wisecracking clown. I may not have known the answer, but I would make it up, kind of like Bugs Bunny. My



INSPIRATION AND HUMOR

Auguste character, Miss Moose, could care less about being right or looking beautiful! (At age sixty, I am past all that.) Now, my character is more like the Muppet Grover or Gonzo.

Look in the mirror at your clown image and think, "What would be the funniest thing that could happen to this character?" Seeing a big beefy guy clown pull out a tutu and try to be graceful is funny. A little petite clown trying to lift weights is funny. An old clown doing rap is hilarious. The more you develop contrasts in your performance, the more fun you can have.

However, be forewarned. The Dalai Lama said, "Take into account that great love and great achievements involve great risk." Are you ready to risk being funny? Are you ready to step away from all the preconceived notions of what is proper behavior and make people laugh? Make yourself laugh?

It is about being vulnerable. Most of us don't want to go there, but it is liberating when you do. Start thinking about what is funny. With a little effort, you will see a lot more humor in life.

Plan it and risk it! It comes down to discipline and organization. I don't write my newsletter as the queen of all things organized but as the lowly servant of a very busy schedule. Without organization, important things wouldn't be done, and we couldn't have fun. Don't ever let anyone tell you that pre-planning takes all the spontaneity out of your performance! Baloney. The better prepared you are, the more time there is for fun! This point is proven over and over by successful people in all walks of life and types of business and pleasure. Plan to have fun! Plan to be funny. Plan to enjoy every minute of your performance. **TNC**

Tricia Manuel is the unmistakable Pricilla Mooseburger, also known as Miss Moose! Learn more about her and her amazing clown products and education at www.mooseburger.com, Pricilla@mooseburger.com, 320-963-6277.



BLANK CANVAS

By Skip Way

Each child is a blank canvas, a coloring book with untouched images waiting for the world to add its energy, imagination, and color. As entertainers and role models, we provide one of the many palettes that define each child's vision of this world. This is no small thing.

As a performer, it is not the often-bungled magic trick proudly presented by a young fan that draws me. It is the child's bright creativity and belief in himself that engages. In a society with so many rules and restrictions, watching a child mirror my passion for my art through his or her thoughts, ideas, and emotions without fear of being right or wrong is a stunning thing of beauty.

We no longer see things the same way as our children. We must consciously step outside our adult shells to appreciate the wonders a child sees in everyday things that we take for granted. These searching young minds turn to us for meaning and definition. Our response defines whether this canvas becomes one of our greatest masterpieces or most dismal failures. Let others impart limiting rules and standards. It is our mission as artists to help children push past perceived constraints and reach for their dreams.

Play is the business of children. Artistic exploration is one of the most natural vehicles for play. By openly sharing our artistic mastery of humor and tragedy, we empower children to explore their own creative paths to these energies.

Our comedic bumbling inspires our young audiences to push past their fears and try new things.

David "Silly Billy" Kaye once explained that entertaining children is more about the journey than the destination. This is perhaps the single wisest phrase ever uttered by a kidshow great. The best entertainers create a journey that entertains as it inspires. Our journeys draw children into a world of reason, exploration, and discovery. Whether you are a magician, clown, balloon artist, juggler, or face painter, our art should motivate and engage our young audiences. Every action adds definition and color to each child's canvas. What colors will you stir?

I am honored to join the COAI family of powerhouse columnists. Future columns will explore the infinite hows and whys behind connecting heart to heart with our most precious wards. I cordially invite you to share this journey with me.

TNC

Skip Way has been a professional children's entertainer for more than forty-five years. Upon retiring from the Air Force, he settled in Raleigh, North Carolina, and began working stand-up comedy and military clubs along the East Coast. While lucrative, he missed the laughter of children and returned to a career in family entertainment as a classic kid-show performer named Happy Dan. Reach him by e-mail at rway@nc.rr.com.



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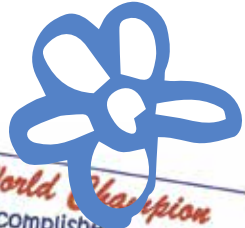
**Heather
"Pockets"
Wuersching**

At any time of the year, you may need to produce a gift at short notice. These Gag Bag ideas selected by Pockets are completely inane pranks in a bag that will amuse your friends, relatives, and even the stranger that you meet while doing walk-around. Some folks think they are downright weird, but Pockets just loves them and is constantly on the lookout for more unconventional ideas to keep Twaddles occupied.

We have set up a page of four labels which you can print and use if you do not want to design your own. Just email me and ask for the PDF called "Vacation Plus," and I will send the page to you. The previous sets of labels are still available if you want any of them, as well. I can direct you to the correct issue for each in

The New Calliope, and you can check out the column in the Vault on the COAI website at www.mycoai.com.

PROCRASTEROL: Many people have difficulty making up their minds. If you know someone who is often indecisive, here is that most magical of medications that may be helpful, Procrasterol. Fantasy medicine, imaginary action may help you be more decisive. "Recommended by Dr. Ima Ditherer, Maybe Later Laboratories, Donau, Germany. Non-drowsy, once a day, fast-acting. Active ingredients: monosaccharides (otherwise known as sugar). Our guarantee: If not hundred percent satisfied, we guarantee that we will be very surprised."



I ACHIEVED NOTHING WORLD CHAMPION:

Some folks have the knack of avoiding work or any meaningful activity. For those who can score the perfect ten at doing nothing at all, here is the perfect gift.

The bag contains a gold medal. Cheap plastic medals or small trophies are available at cheap shops.

GAG BAGS

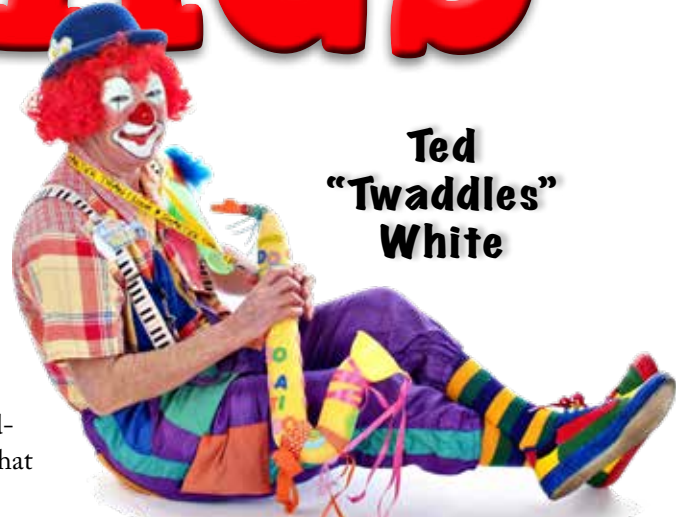
By Ted "Twaddles" White

The clear plastic resealable bags currently in use are about four inches across the top, so these labels are four inches long. If you want to use narrower bags, you may prefer to have the page of labels sent to you as a JPEG, and you can adjust the size to suit.

What has she put in the bags this month?

Have fun! Have fun making these bags and then have a lot more fun handing them out and interacting with the people in front of you. Remember that laughter is the best medicine.

Ted "Twaddles" White was the COAI International RVP 2014-2020. Contact him by e-mail at twaddles2014@hotmail.com TNC

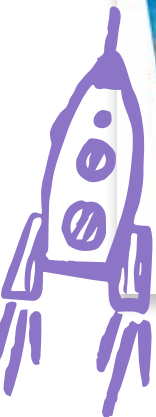


Ted
"Twaddles"
White



VACATION IN A BAG: Occasionally, we all feel a need to get away from it all, but we lack the time and money to rush off on a holiday. Here is the solution to the problem – a Vacation in a Bag. "When you feel you need a holiday but don't have time to get away, the answer's always near at hand, you need a drink, a breeze, and sand." Instructions: 1. Mix a drink and place the umbrella in it. 2. Turn on the fan. 3. With your fingers, feel the texture of the sand while you sit in the breeze and enjoy a mini vacation."

Inside each bag are a few spoons of sand and a cocktail umbrella.



NICE PILLS: Out there in this wide and wonderful world are all sorts of people. A few are perfectly OK, but there are many who could be less grumpy. This bag is for all those folks who need a bit of improvement. "We all know someone who could be a little nicer. Do them a big favour and give them a few Nice Pills. Mean and grouchy people should take the whole bag."

The bag contains a quantity of Tic Tacs. Any other pill-shaped shape candy could be substituted.

This bag contains a quantity of jellybeans. Many other types of candy could be substituted

SNAPSHOTS



Bon Bon, Sugar Bear, Miss Toby, Banjoe Belly, Uncle Rusty, and Zorba at Circus Vargas.

The San Diego All Star Clowns and Family Entertainers entertained at Circus Vargas on February 21. Eight clowns – Bon Bon, Grandma Huggs, Banjoe Belly, Zorba, Uncle Rusty, Miss Toby, Sugar Bear, and Corkey – arrived an hour before show time to entertain the crowd in the foyer in front of the main tent. After entertaining for an hour, we watched the 2:30 p.m. show from awesome seats. It was big fun!

Miss Toby had a family of five come to Circus Vargas to see her! Bon Bon performed the Professor's Nightmare, pick a number, glove to pair, electric dishwasher, and spring water. She also passed out red nose stickers and got much needed hugs when we were posing for pictures. Bon Bon tried to start a skit with the group, but we were all too busy to get organized for a skit.

Grandma Huggs, Corkey, and Zorba all had cute stickers for the guests. Grandma Huggs performed Dinosaur Repellent. Banjoe Belly did a bit of umbrella manipulation, diamond stick magic, small ball juggling, and handed out stickers. Zorba performed the magic scarf that changed from solid to rainbow colors. Miss Toby had a cute puppet she used to entertain the guests.

We had awesome seats for the circus. We didn't have to go up or down even one step! That is greatly appreciated when you are wearing clown shoes. I'm happy to report that it was nearly a full house! I'm glad to see life happening again! **TNC**



Bon Bon entertaining at Circus Vargas.



Zorba, Sugar Bear, Uncle Rusty, Banjoe Belly, Grandma Huggs, and Corky at Circus Vargas.



Uncle Rusty and Zorba having fun with children.



Bon Bon at Circus Vargas.



Corky, Sugar Bear, Miss Toby, Banjoe Belly, Bon Bon, Uncle Rusty, Zorba, Grandma Huggs, and Zeke with children at Circus Vargas.



Sugar Bear, Uncle Rusty, Miss Toby, Banjoe Belly, Zorba, and Bon Bon.

THE LAST WALK-AROUND

Fran “Kolo” Etzkorn

Fran Etzkorn, 81, died August 6, 2021. Fran was born in Appleton, Wisconsin. She moved several times before she eventually landed in Colorado. Her first taste of entertaining came when the Lady Elks needed an Easter Bunny. Fran bravely donned the suit and found she loved entertaining. Soon after her impersonation of a rabbit, a clown was needed for the office Christmas party at Blue Cross Blue Shield where Fran worked. The man who usually clowned at the event was not available. Fran borrowed his clown costume and entertained at the party.



After several years at Blue Cross Blue Shield, Fran moved up the ranks of the High Country Fire Protection District, going from a volunteer firefighter to serving as chief for two years. When she retired in 2002, a friend suggested that she start clowning again. She decided that was wise advice, drove herself to clown camp in Wisconsin, and Kolo the Clown was born.

For the last fourteen years of her life, Fran fought pulmonary hypertension. The disease did not stop her, however. Even when she had to be on oxygen, she adapted. At her performances, Kolo brought along Corny the Corndog, a fake ear of corn which she led around on an invisible dog leash. Corny was

accompanied by a Port O Potty, a plastic fire hydrant in which Kolo cleverly concealed her oxygen tank.

Kolo clowned at hospitals, parades, and clowning competitions. She loved entertaining children and adults alike. She clowned at skilled nursing facilities and participated in walks that benefitted the Pulmonary Hypertension Association, as well as fundraisers for other nonprofits. The World Clown Association recognized her with their Humanitarian Award for her efforts.

Fran was a member of the Colorado Clown Alley. Members of the alley joined in and supported Fran in her work with nonprofits. They were very fond of Fran and visited her at her home to celebrate her birthday.

Fran was married to John Etzkorn for forty-seven years. John and the clowning world lost a dear woman and a remarkable clown when they lost Fran. Rest in peace, Kolo.

Submitted by Michele “Ragz” Adcock

Karen C. Tilton, “K-Tee the Clown Magician.”

Karen Claudeen Tilton (nee Moyes), age 79, died February 10, 2022, after a long battle with cancer. She was born

on December 10, 1942, in La Harpe, Illinois. She was happily married to her husband Dean for fifty-nine years. Dean, her sons Ted and Trent, daughters-in-law, and six grandchildren were the focal point of her life and brought her the greatest joy.



Karen was a graduate of La Harpe High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts from Western Illinois University and her master's degree in Speech Communication and Theatre Arts from the University of Iowa. Karen taught high school speech and drama in Iowa for thirty-nine years before retiring and moving to The Villages, Florida. Karen was awarded many accolades during her teaching career, including the Iowa Teacher of the Year by the University of Iowa. The Tiltons also enjoyed a twenty-five-year involvement with the Peace Pipe Players Community Theatre, which Karen cofounded and where she directed many plays and musical comedies. After moving to Florida, Karen discovered the fun of magic and clowning. Karen reinvented herself as “K-Tee the Clown Magician” and was a member of The Villages Magic Club, I.B.M. Ring 258 in Leesburg, and Clown Alley #179, an active troupe of over a hundred clowns in The Villages. She loved performing for school children as well as seniors in retirement homes and nursing homes.

TNC



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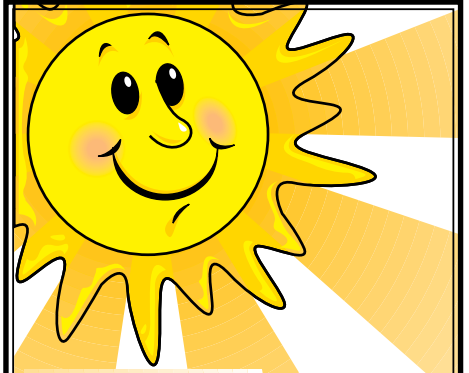
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Garfield, NJ 07026

Richard "Design-O" Smith
97 Grafton Street, Back Door
Shrewsbury, MA 01545-5646

St. Joseph's Manor
Fran "Cuddles" Smith
6448 Main St
Trumbull, CT 06611

Judy "Dearheart" Quest
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COMEDY WARM-UPS FOR CHILDREN'S SHOWS

By David Ginn

Harold Taylor started me on this, and once I got the hang of it, I've never stopped doing it! As I've said in live lectures for thirty-four years, the comedy warm-up in a show for children is the first important thing you should learn about entertaining children. In books like *Children Laugh Louder*, *Kidbiz*, and *Crash Course on Kidshows*, I share more ways to get your kid show started effectively. In truth, they all boil down to a three-part system:

Get kids applauding.

Get them laughing.

Do something magical.

Many children don't know how to be a live audience. By telling them early that it is okay to clap their hands for things they like, you're on the way to helping them enjoy your show. Then you reinforce it by doing things that make them want to applaud.

The same is true for laughter. I simply tell them, "It's okay to laugh during the show

if you think something is funny." Then I say or do things that cause that reaction.

In school and library shows, I often instruct kids early on how to sit. Sometimes I say, "Please sit all the way down. Criss-cross applesauce, story-style, pretzel style. Do not sit on your feet or your legs — or your head." This is an effort to seat them properly so all can see, but I purposely mix in humor (don't sit on your head!) to make them laugh. Often, I follow up by saying, "It's hard to see the show sitting on your head."

Part three of the warm-up is very important, too. *Do something magical.* That

could be a trick, stunt, visual joke, or many other things, but I prefer it to be visual instead of simply audible. It could be something as simple as the talking teeth or something more like my Pom Pom Pole routine, which you can view on YouTube or at ginnmagic.com.

The Sixth Finger Countdown is a simple warm-up, but it always surprises kids when I do it, and it gets to magicians who have never seen it, too. At the Blackpool Magic Convention in 2012, I included the bit in my lecture on "Educating Children with Magic." Immediately after the lecture, about two dozen magicians wanted to buy a Sixth Finger. Unfortunately, I only had nine with me!

Think in three parts — clapping hands, laughter, and something magical.

Here is one quick note about clapping hands. Most elementary age children (ages five to twelve) understand the concept of clapping your hands in a performance, but preschoolers do not. With young preschool children, I practice clapping hands with them. I tell them to clap their hands on the count of three, "One, two, three!" And I lead the clapping. Then, I yell, "Stop!" I remind them to stop when I stop. We do it again and see how quickly they can stop. Repeated several times, it gets them accustomed to clapping hands to participate. Then, I purposely say one, two, three, and don't clap my hands. They, of course, do clap. "Stop! I didn't say clap hands! Let's try again." We clap hands again on my command, but we don't stop. Then, I pull the trick on them of not stopping until I say, "Stop."

This is an especially good warm-up for the under sixes.

Get the warm-up concept in your mind: Clap hands. Make them laugh. Then, do something magical! **TNC**

David Ginn is the author of nearly one hundred books and videos on entertaining children. Visit him online at www.ginnmagicshop.com.





Fox

By Patricia "Pockets" Bunnell



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.

1. Inflate an orange 360 about half way. Form two pinch twists on the nozzle end. Set aside.
2. Make a small bubble for the neck. Make a pinch twist. Form a three-inch bubble for the body. Make another pinch twist. The remaining balloon becomes the tail. You might need to shorten it.
3. Inflate a black 160 leaving about a four-inch tip. Form two loops for ears. Tie off, and break balloon, tie off and set aside.
4. Inflate a black 260 leaving a four-inch tip. Make four equal bubbles for legs.
5. Tie the tip to the tail to form a diamond shape.
6. Form a loop around the ears using the 360.
7. Attach the legs at the pinch twist at the base of the neck. Twist the legs in the middle.
8. Attach the legs at the pinch twist at the base of the tail. Add artwork!

Patricia "Pockets" Bunnell is an award-winning balloon artist from the Portland, Oregon, area. You may reach her by e-mail at oddballoon@gmail.com.



EGGS-CELLENT MAGIC Chicken Towel Routine

By Ann "Tuttles" Sanders
Photos by Tim "Sawdust" Laynor



In his "Chickenology" class, Jim "Donuts" Donoughe of Niagara Falls, New York, shares dozens of chicken puns. Donuts describes his class as "the history of every clown's favorite prop, but few know what to do with it."

After I attended his class at the 2021 Mid-Atlantic Clown Association Convention and to add to his chicken-themed repertoire, I shared with Donuts a routine I have often included in my magic shows. All you need is a rubber chicken, a yellow hand towel (a pale yellow, thin towel works best), and a method for producing your nonfeathered friend who, by the way, thinks he is a bunny.

I use a dove pan for my routine. I load the chicken by folding it. By doing so, when the top of the pan is removed, the chicken will often spring upward. I present the chicken and tell my audience that it is a bunny with little bunny ears (made from felt) and a little bunny tail (a yellow pompom glued to the backside of the chicken).

When I hear, or pretend to hear, an audience member say, "That's not a bunny! It's a chicken," I show the chicken and say, "This is a bunny! It has little bunny ears and a little bunny tail." I will keep the banter going for a few moments, hold up a yellow hand towel, and say, "This is a chicken!" I will hear, or pretend to hear, an



audience member say, "It's a towel." I will look surprised and reply, "A towel? This is not a towel. It is a chicken, and I can prove it!"

To prove the towel is, in fact, a chicken, lay the towel on a flat surface. Roll the shorter ends to the middle.

Fold the towel in half with the rolled sections facing outward.

Pull outward on all four of the centers of the rolled ends.

Holding the ends you just exposed, pull the rolled sections apart.



Show your audience and announce, "This is a chicken!"

Finally, show the chicken is magical because it can disappear! Hold one end and allow the towel to unfold.

I did not create the towel-to-chicken routine, and sadly, I cannot give credit to the one that shared it with me since I do not remember who taught me. I have used it for over twenty-five years, and it never fails to create a reaction from my audience. I hope you agree it is an eggs-cellent magic trick, and that's no yoke! **TNC**



Welcome, NEW MEMBERS!

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- Pam "Duffles" Campbell Taylor
★ Leesburg FL
- ★ Mark Weiser Miami FL
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- Danielle "Poptarts" Fisher Los
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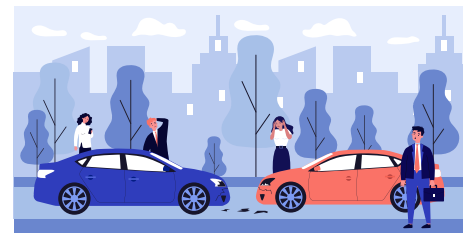
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WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG?

By Beth “Pickles” Cedarholm



You're ready for your big gig. From your shiny red nose to your newly polished clown shoes, you look like the pro you are. You've rehearsed your act so many times that you're reciting your clever patter in your dreams. Your clown car is packed with all of your magic tricks and balloons, you've got a full tank of gas, and you're ready to hit the road.

Then, boom. During your show (or sometimes before you even arrive), the unexpected and unthinkable happens. You flub. Big time. Or, even worse, powers over which you have no control throw a wrench into your well laid-out plans, shattering your vision of the perfect performance.

The fact is that, no matter how diligently we work to perfect our clowning, and no matter how well-prepared we are for a show or party, we are imperfect creatures living in an imperfect—and often unpredictable world. Unexpected things—sometimes unimaginably cringeworthy things—*do* happen, to even the most experienced entertainers.

What follows are personal tales of woe from entertainers who have endured some impossibly bad situations. But instead of throwing in the clown nose and giving up, these performers have gleaned some tidbit of wisdom from the negative experience and moved on, only to become better and wiser entertainers.



Leo Desilets, Clown and Comedy Magician

This has happened to me seven times during my forty years of performing as a clown and comedy magician.

During my show, a child has an “accident” while helping during a trick. Sometimes they would start doing the “I gotta go” dance, and I'd whisper in their ear, “Do you have to go to the bathroom?” Then I'd announce that we needed to take a quick break: “Johnny will be right back.” I'd entertain with a few gags while we waited for the child to return, and then... on with the show.

It is very embarrassing for a child when he or she has an accident on stage.

If the child doesn't run off the stage, we will finish the trick very quickly. If he or she runs off, I'll make an excuse, such as “I asked Johnny to come back later. I've forgotten how to do the trick, and maybe we will finish it a little later.”



Lynette McDonald, Clown

I had been in a car accident on the way to a birthday party and was thirty minutes late. I told the kids about it because I was quite flustered. My dove pan got dented in the accident and wouldn't open when I tried to use it in a trick. I felt like crying because I was having a very bad day, but I just told

them I couldn't do that trick because my magic wand got broken in my accident. To make matters worse, the woman I hit was a caulrophobic, and she plastered the incident all over Facebook. Normally my magic tricks work, but I am a clown, not a magician. If something doesn't work, I just laugh and say I need more practice.

**Bob Abdou
“Mr. Puppet,”
Puppeteer**



It was one of those rare occasions when I booked an event through an agent, a corporate show for the Meat Packers of Ohio. The client had requested my adult show, which is not raunchy, but is a bit risqué. The contract specified that no children would be in attendance. The theater was dark when I started my performance, so I couldn't see the audience. I told a very funny joke about electricity, but nobody laughed. I continued with my act but got absolutely no response. At one point, someone in the audience yelled that they wanted the magician from last year. My gut instinct was to switch my material to a non-adult show, but I thought I needed to stick to what was outlined in my contract. I kept doing my adult show, and the more I performed, the worse it got. I was sweating so badly that it looked like I had just come out of the shower. At the end of the show, the lights came on, and I realized that the audience was Amish, and there were fifteen children sitting in the front. Later I spoke with the agent who had hired me, who said, “You were horrible. My client hated you.” He had assumed that I knew that the Meat Packers of Ohio was comprised mostly of Amish people. I was reminded that night that, besides never telling a joke



about electricity to an Amish audience, there are three rules for a successful show: 1. Read the room, 2. Know the audience, and 3. Love the audience. After that disastrous show, I developed a show exclusively for the Amish, and to date I have performed about one hundred fifty Amish shows.

Adam Schill, Clown and COAI President



I was about twenty-two at the time and still living with my parents. I agreed to perform with my younger friend Alexx at a small-town festival about an hour away from home. We agreed on a payment of one hundred dollars.

The area had received record amounts of rainfall in recent weeks, but my friend assured me that the water had been receding and that it was safe to travel on closed roads. I was on a small state highway close to town when I saw a “road closed” sign. On the other side of that, I saw some water on the road. I could see the other side of the water and the road coming out of it, and the yellow line all the way across. It appeared to be a straight path and not very deep. I decided to go around the “road closed” sign. I started driving through the water, and it was getting deeper and deeper, and before I knew it, it was up to the headlights of my ’02 Ford Escape. My car was creating wakes, and the movement of the water was kind of swaying the car back

and forth. I was about halfway across, and I was starting to freak out, because at this point I didn’t know if the water was going to keep getting deeper or if I was through the worst. I decided that the best course of action was to back out of the water. However, when I put my car in reverse, water flooded the engine and killed my car.

I called my mom and asked what I should do, and after the “You’re an idiot! You’re an hour away from home, and it’s not going to be cheap to get that car home, let alone fixed” talk, she told me I needed to call the police, and that she was in the middle of doing some stuff, but she’d head down as soon as she could to get me.

I called 911 to report that I was stranded in high water. I could tell that the operator was annoyed, since I was probably the five hundredth person to call in in the past week with the same dilemma. Before hanging up, I said “Oh, by the way you might want to warn the officer that I’m a clown, you know, red nose, big shoes.”

I sat there for ten minutes or so and tried to get all of my props, clown shoes, etc. in the highest place possible inside my car. By this point, water had been coming in the bottom of my doors, and my floorboard was soaked with standing water. Finally I looked in my rear view mirror and saw a cop car sitting in the road behind me. He got on his PA and said “walk back here to my car.” I



got out (still in clown), pulled my pants up above my knees and started wading, barefoot, the two hundred fifty feet or so to him. I got about halfway and he got on his intercom again and said, “Don’t forget your license and registration.” So I turned around, got my registration and waded back to him. The officer was cracking up as he watched this clown wading through high water. I told him about the festival and how I was supposed to be performing ten minutes ago. He said, “Well you’re probably not going to make it.” I said, “Ya think? What a crappy day.” He said, “Yeah, and you’re probably not going to like me too much, because I have to ticket you for disobeying the road closed sign.” I told him I understood and asked if he could give me a ride into town.

Luckily, I had planned on going straight from the show to a friend’s college graduation, so I had a change of clothes and baby wipes soaked in baby oil with me. I took my makeup off in the squad car and changed my clothes in the bathroom at the police department. I made it to the festival just in time to see Alexx finishing what ended up being a solo show. I wasn’t able to tell him what had happened, because I didn’t have his phone number, so he thought that I had stood him up and he just did the show by himself. As he finished up, he saw me standing there and was like, “Dude, what happened?” I filled him in. Then the organizer of the show walked over to congratulate Alexx. I introduced myself and apologized for not being there. The organizer then handed me a check for one hundred dollars. I told him I couldn’t accept the check, because I had failed to live up to our agreement. He said that I should just take it, because the check was already written and they had already taken it off of the books. (I’m pretty sure he felt sorry for me at this point.) I accepted the check, telling him that I wanted to do a free show at the next festival, and he agreed.

My mom finally arrived. We grabbed some lunch and she took me to a church

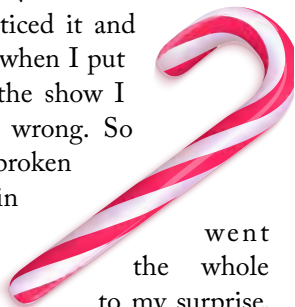
INSPIRATION AND HUMOR

parking lot right by where my car was stuck. We sat there for four hours, staring at my car, while we waited for the tow truck.

That \$100 show cost me \$120 for the ticket, \$300 for the wrecker, and \$800 to fix my car. That happened to be about the same amount I had saved up for Moosecamp. Luckily I was able to pull a bunch of doubles at work (I was serving then) and made plenty back in time to go to camp.

Jane Kinney, Clown

I am not very magical, and the magic I perform is very simple. I was using Barry Mitchell's switch can at a memory care center and didn't have it set up right. I practiced it and practiced it but when I put it together for the show I put it together wrong. So when I put the broken candy cane silk in the can and went to produce the whole candy silk, to my surprise, it wasn't there at all! I pretended that a mischievous little elf must have gotten into my stuff, and if we used some very special magic words, we might be able to fix what that naughty little elf had messed up. When I finally did get it all sorted out, the unbroken candy cane silk was still in the can, and so were little real candy canes to eat, so everyone was very happy.



Do you want to share a tale of woe, lesson learned, or "What Could Possibly Go Wrong?" story? Send it to Beth "Pickles" Cedarholm at clownpickles@gmail.com. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. TNC

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A POEM CALLED... FUNNY BUSINESS

By Shirley Fugate-Hopper

Rushing north, I can't be late.
The party's here, balloons on the gate.
Back on the freeway headed south,
No time for lunch to dirty my mouth.

Where is the street? Is this the address?
The house looks empty. Where are the guests?
There they are, hidden in back
Waiting for me so the adults can relax.

Each little face is smiling in fun
As a flower appears and the silk is gone.
The birthday child shines bright as the star!
His party's the coolest, the best by far.

With faces all painted, a balloon for each child,
We sing "Happy Birthday," then cheer with a smile
That special boy on his special day.
Then, back in the clown mobile and on my way

To the freeway again and the next special child
To create silly fun and enchant-ment awhile.
What a great feeling to create joy in the heart of the young,
The goal of a clown when the day's work is done.

Reprinted from The New Calliope, January/February 1997.



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I thought 2021 would be much better. As luck would have it, most of life was still closed down, but it wasn't as bad as before. The vaccines were coming out, and people were getting them by the droves! I have been fully vaccinated for several months now.

Let's fast forward to current time. Things are really opening up, and events are back on. Fairs are getting the okay to open. I began booking events and parties for July and August. Things are going back to somewhat normal. It's not perfect, but it's better.

I know that many of us have been a little skittish to get out again after this clown drought. Do you remember your very first clown job when you were a first of May? You were probably worried, scared, and apprehensive about how well you were going to do. Your first event after coming back will be something like that, but now you are a seasoned clown. I'm sure that, as soon as you put that face on and get with the crowd, you'll be back to yourself again. The first event will be the hardest, but after that, you will come back even better than before. Get that costume washed, sort those balloons, clean out that face paint case, and get your magic in order. You're going to come back better than ever.

People need humor now more than ever. Remember how good it feels to clown and get those smiles. Think of those little kids who are so excited to see you. One little boy during one of my drive-by events was a little standoffish when I did a birthday surprise for his sister. By the time I got ready to leave, he asked his mom if I could stay with them for two weeks! What a goofy kid! Think about stuff like that. Picture in your mind what you're going to do and how the kids, and even the grown-ups, are going to love you. Think about the smiles on the faces of the elderly. These last two years have been very hard on them, too.

My final advice to all my clown friends is don't be nervous! Don't be afraid! Put on your face and make the laughs appear. You have it in you. You have the heart to do it, and I have confidence in each and every one of my clown family. **TNC**



By Connie "Punkin" Morrow

In 2020 and for much of 2021, the world stood still. Businesses closed, people stayed in their homes, hospitals were overfilled, rationing was in place on everything from toilet paper to tuna. And the clown world stopped.

How does a clown get through a horrific situation like this one? It took me a while to figure out what to do. My last job was February 28, 2020. At that time, things were already bad all over the world. Seeing newscasts of people wearing face masks in China, I was taking precautions even then. I used a lot of sanitizer and kept my distance from the other partygoers.

During those first few weeks, I was a bit depressed. Not seeing "my kids" each weekend was hard to take. I needed to find something to take my mind off what was happening. It was great to catch up on things that I hadn't had time to do before, but that could only last so long.

Seeing so many people down and scared to even go out gave me an idea. I started sending little jokes to various friends and relatives. They would get a card in the mail with a silly joke. For that moment, they could laugh and stop thinking about the world outside.

Then, I saw drive-by parades on the news. That gave me another idea. Why should the kids in my town suffer through all this on their birthdays? I started doing drive-by birthday parties. It wasn't the same as a regular party, and they only lasted about fifteen minutes, but the kids had some fun, and they knew it was their special day. I put a post on my town's Facebook page, and the calls started coming in. I would drive to the birthday child's house and park on the street or in the driveway, and they would stand on the porch. I didn't do much. I played my toy ukulele and sang a song, did some goofy magic tricks, sent a couple of rocket balloons up, and did my famous cartwheel. Yeah, I did a cartwheel. I didn't do a cartwheel like someone who was fit would do it; it was more like the way someone who was old and chubby would do it! The kids laughed, the parents laughed, and my work was done. At the very end, I'd throw some confetti up, and off I'd go. I volunteered to do these because I wanted to give something back to the community.

Most of the drive-by parties were done in the spring and summer. When fall came around, I had another idea. I decided to read a Halloween book on Facebook. It went over so well that I did others.

Christmas and New Year were upon us, and my thought was to do some videos for the kids as my elf character. This time, I decided to personalize them. Moms would send me the kids' names, tell me about their pets, toys, and other things, and I'd do a short video and talk to them about the upcoming holiday. I didn't do these on Zoom; I just made a video. I also did one for Easter as Punkin with the Easter Bunny walking behind me. (Thanks to Mr. Punkin!)



REBO'S Clown Bits and Props

By Bev Bergeron
No Feet

The idea of making one's feet vanish while standing was written up by Joe Karson. However, it took André Kole to make a brilliant stage illusion out of it. I took an idea from General Grant's Stretching Man and adapted my one-man version.

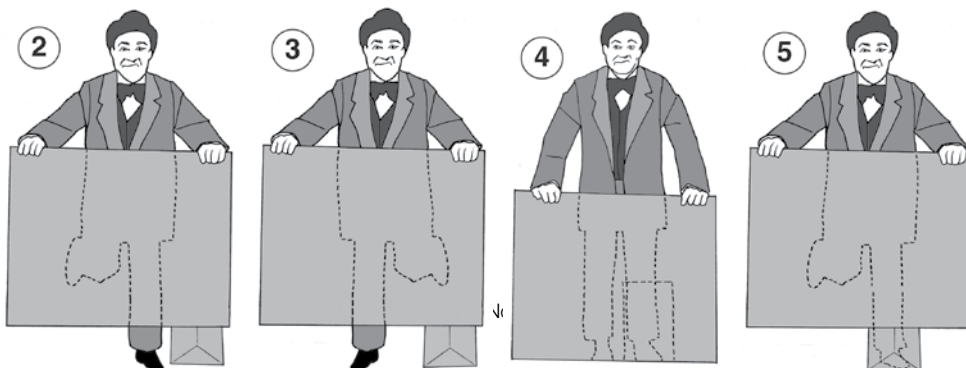
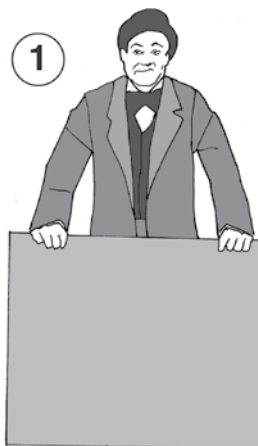
The performer removes a cloth from a bag. Holding the cloth in front of himself at his waist, he conceals his feet from view. The cloth is lifted like a curtain on a stage to reveal that one foot is missing. The cloth is lowered and once again raised. The missing leg has returned, but the other leg is now missing. The cloth is lowered and raised, and this time, both legs and feet are missing. The cloth is lowered and raised to show all has returned.

It is a cute comedy effect that will fool some and make others laugh if they do figure it out.

The secret is in the bag, which is on the floor next to you. You can use almost anything of similar shape and size. I've used waste paper baskets, cardboard boxes, and paper sacks. You must be able to step into it without too much trouble and without moving it around.

After you remove the cloth from the bag, cover your legs, with the bottom of the cloth touching the floor (**Fig. 1**). Lift your right leg and raise the cloth high enough to show only your left foot and leg (**Fig. 2**). Briefly lower the cloth to the floor again, and balance on your right leg while lifting your left leg out of view as you raise the cloth again (**Fig. 3**). Lower the cloth and step into the bag with your left leg (**Fig. 4**). For the finale, raise your right leg out of view as you lift the cloth and give the illusion that both feet have vanished (**Fig. 5**).

The cloth should be brightly colored and big enough to cover all the action. **TNC**



CLOWN CALENDAR

April 26-30, 2022

**Clowns of America International
Convention**

Atlanta, Georgia

www.coaiconvention.com

July 13-16, 2022

**International Brotherhood of
Magicians Convention**

Atlanta, Georgia

www.ibmconvention.com

July 26-31, 2022

Mooseburger Clown Arts Camp

Buffalo, Minnesota

www.mooseburger.com/event-details/mooseburger-clown-arts-camp-2022

August 14-20, 2022

American Clown Academy

Eatonton, Georgia

www.americanclownacademy.com

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