## Essence of clowning creates happiness

dren dream about doil, H. Al. he ran away from home and briend a circus. Today, although he pakes his living driving a truck and libking after his beautiful at the control of the control

HE ALSO WON recognition as best comic at the Southwest Detroit Freedom Festival in 1966, 1967, 1988 and 1973. In addition, he is a past president of Clowns of America, an organization devoted to training clowns. "During the Freedom Festival parade, the judges give clowns a score"

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as they pass in review." says Ne-meth. "They also have spotters along the parade route watching what we

loon sculpture, forming animals out of colored balloons as he walks along.

loon sculpture, forming animals out of colored balloons as he walks along. "When there is a pause I pull out and perform the pocket tricks I pull out and tricks and tricks. The pull out and tricks are also do papel magic, which are magic tricks with a religious message."

Nemeth is what is known in the trade as a white-faced clown. "It takes me about a half hour to make up if I have to hurry." he explains. "If only takes 10 minutes to take it off. I use a solvent to dissolve it, then I just wipe it off."

If a dots, "It is a grease type make-up. I could be hit in the face with water from a hose and it wouldn't bother the make-up at all."

What speaking he opens his make-up kit only to find that the large read stuck he uses for reddening his lips, cheeks and nose had sisappeared. "The try so horrowed it." says Nemech, adding that his son, Light Degar Mortel, and the pull of the pull of

We traveled all over the country.

"We traveled all over the country."

It he recalls. "It helped pitch the tents because we had to move every day."

Nometh continues: "My first job on the ring was to bring out the little dogs, monkeys and Alaskan-huskies. A little later they let me perform with the animals. I would put them through their routines jumping through hoops and dancing.

"Then I went into a clown skill."

"Then I went into a clown skit called Jargo the Giraffe. I played the front half of Jargo."

Nemeth also revealed how these human animals make their way through their oftimes complicated routines under the big top.

As the front legs. Nemeth, bent over somewhat, held the neck and peeked through a hole in the giraffe's chest.

chest.
"The man behind had his hands on my hips and could easily follow my footsteps." Nemeth says. "We never fell over each other even though he couldn't see. It also helped that we did the same frequently."

CIRCUS BUFFS will be interested in a routine that was popular in the 1930s.

1900s.

A man would rush up to the ring master and beg for a chance for Jargo the Girafte to perform, savs Nemeth. "He would explain how gentle the giraffe was. Then, when the giraffe was given his chance, we may be compared to the ring and chase the ringmaster around the ring. Every

command he would give us we would good up.
"Finally the ringmaster would trip and the back half of the giraffe would sto no him."
Will working as Jargo, Nemeth will be well as a clown in which would be well as a clown in anades and sometimes in the ring. But his ambition in life was simple. "I was ambition to life was simple." I was ambition to life was simple in my stornách," he laughs. "You see while I like clowin work, the circus business was awful hard. If the work half to be so hard I could have enjoyed it more."
Little boys and girls who dream of becoming dazzling circus performers to not realize that in Nemeth's time. It was by no means all glamour. "Circus life was hard because after the show, everyone, including the performers, had to tear down the tents, load them and move on to the next he. The prest ston was nawhere from

cation."
"The next stop was anywhere from five to 100 miles away." he adds. "When we got there we had to set up the tents again and then we could go

the tents again and then we could go bed."

EVEN TODAY clown work is stremous according to Nemeth. "You can figure that in those parades if the march is a mile and a half long, a clown will walk three to four miles.

"I like the people who come watch. I like everything about people and I enjoy their laughter very much."

much." Nemeth has his own private list of

priorities as to the people he approaches with his balloons and tricks during parades.

In the property of the

ter.
"The quality dropped a while back because clowns did not have much training. We were getting a lot of lip-

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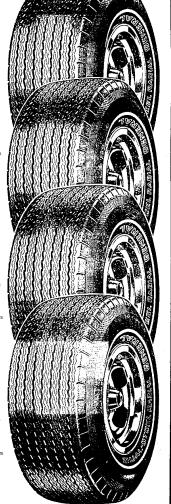
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