Warped by Scott McCullar

Grandson to start an act

Clowning runs in family

United Press International

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The namesake grandson of the late, great Emmett Kelly has decided to become a third-generation professional clown and risk a second family estrangement.

Emmett J. Kelly, 33, said a similar decision by his father in the early 1960s incurred the enduring wrath of the original "Weary Willie."

The original Emmett Kelly died in March 1979. His son, also Emmett Kelly, runs the Emmett Kelly All Star Circus, based in Tombstone, Ariz.

"Let's face it — I love my father, and I was hesitant (to clown for a living)," said Emmett J., who added the initial to his professional name. "But it's my family heritage, my niche in life. I've set it on the shelf too long."

Besides, says Kelly, he was not enchanted with his job as an accountant.

"Conventional jobs have just not been that satisfying," Kelly said. "Whether it's the spotlight or the stagelight, that's what makes me happy."

He said his father was unaware of his decision to turn professional and probably would learn about it first reading a newspaper.

Fortified with years of amateur experience, mainly in Peru, Ind., former wintering place for circuses, Kelly tried his professional wings during 1982, giving several performances for Southwest Airlines passengers.

Over Christmas and New Year, Kelly became the first member of his family to go on stage since his grandfather appeared as a vaudeville performer, without clown costume, in the 1920s.

The Albuquerque Kelly is currently playing, in his clown character, with the Albuquerque Light Opera production of "Carousel."

Now, with the encouragement of his wife, Lisa, and their two children, D'Layne, 8, and Jason Christopher, 5, he says he plans to retain an agent and "make a big push for 1983."

But it will be with no encouragement from his father, who features himself in his circus as a clown patterned after Weary Willie, the classic character made famous by the first Emmett Kelly.

But Emmett J. Kelly says he doesn't feel his father should view him as a competitive threat.

For one thing, he said, he will abandon the familiar, forlorn facial expression of his father and grandfather. Whereas his progenitors both used the name Weary Willie, he will be just plain Willie with a smile.

There would be other differences, too, he said, although he will wear floppy shoes, baggy pants and tatters and tears similar to the other Kelly clowns.

'Supermodels' reign in Brazilian media

United Press International

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Luiza Brunet made her first splash modeling jeans — topless.

Now the sultry brunette has 108 magazine covers to her credit.

Xuxa (pronounced shu-sha) Meneghel has advanced from the fashion parade to the movie screen. She is working on her second film and gets encouragement from her boyfriend, soccer king Pele.

The faces and figures of Luiza and Xuxa have so saturated the Brazilian media that they are known as the country's "supermodels."

Xuxa is blonde and 19; Luiza dark-skinned and 20.

Both shot to fame via the fashion industry. Each charges $2,500 for an hour's work. That's more than most Brazilians earn in a year.

"I've lost my privacy," Luiza said in an interview. "Now I can't go to the beach or cinema without a bodyguard."

Xuxa said, "When people recognize me on the street, they sometimes go berserk."

Xuxa, the daughter of an army captain, still lives with her parents in a modest middleclass Rio suburb. Her mother runs her career and takes care of her packed agenda.

Xuxa, who is on the cover of the December edition of Brazilian Playboy, posed nude for the first time at the age of 16.

"My parents see nothing immoral in that," she said.

Luiza also posed nude at 16.

Brought up in a lower class district of Rio, she married and moved to the elegant south side of the city.

Luiza rose to celebrity in a successful publicity campaign designed by boutique owner Humberto Saad to sell expensive fashion clothes. The ads are styled on Calvin Klein jean campaign in the United States, but Luiza appears topless, with Saad by her side.

Xuxa figures her modeling career will last no more than two years. She already has her sights on acting.

"My first movie was suitable for under 18s," she said. "I am now acting in a film for adults."

Luiza also is thinking of a career, but claims it is harder to work in Brazilian cinema because there's a lot of pornography."

Mark Twain's last book published 'undoctored'

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — A strange fantasy novel by Mark Twain, a bitter satire set in "medieval Austria," has been published for the first time by the University of California Press.

"No. 44, The Mysterious Stranger," published 73 years after the author's death, is based on the long-forgotten third and final draft of the book. It was ignored by Twain's official biographer, Albert Bigelow Paine, when the book was originally brought out in 1916.

The first draft of the manuscript was so severely "doctored" by Paine that the point of the story was lost, UC Press editors said. Paine cut a quarter of "Mysterious Stranger" to spare turn-of-the-century readers Twain's bitter satire about the hypocrisy and corruption of the 19th century.

In 1963, a university professor discovered that Paine's posthumous edition was a "fraud" and undertook to bring out a complete text based on Twain's 12 years of work on "Mysterious Stranger," using the final draft.

The new book is filled with fantasy, magic and psychic adventure in a Gothic style. It was Twain's last work, written in his late 60s and early 70s.

In "Mysterious Stranger," Twain leads the reader through unexplored possibilities of the mind, traveling through time and space to experience adventure.

The story opens at the dawn of the age of printing, taking place in a printshop hidden in an abandoned castle.

A young apprentice, August Feldner, narrates the story of his acquaintance with No. 44, a strange young man who proves to be not quite human.

No. 44, young Feldner soon learns, is capable of mind reading, talking with animals, instantaneous travel to all parts of the world and into the future.

The newly-published book comes from Twain's original manuscripts, part of the Mark Twain Project in the Bancroft Library at Berkeley.

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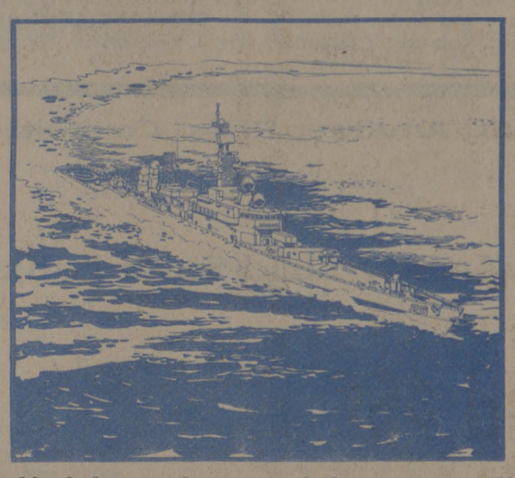

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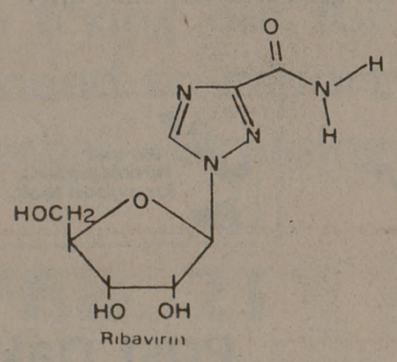

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