

Did Soft Living Cost Largest Man His Life?

James Finch Once Worked Hard to Keep Alive

678-Pound Man Worked for Years with Railroad Construction Gangs to Use Up Surplus Energy.

Did the soft life of the stage and the demands of Harlem night life



PRINCESS WEE WEE the most perfectly formed tiny woman in the world. She is a Baltimorean, and although only a little over two feet tall, once had a hubby six feet tall, whom she divorced.



THE LATE DEACON JAMES FINCH who was the largest man on the stage, shown in a pose in front of a Roanoke, Va., gasoline station where he was at one time employed before taking up a stage career.



MISS BLANCHE THOMPSON manager and star of the "Brown Skin Models," in which show Deacon Finch made his stage debut.

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cost Deacon James Finch, 678-pound man-mountain, his life?

Deacon Finch succumbed last week in the Harlem hospital in New York where he was rushed after a sudden attack of illness. The huge man had been advised by physicians to take a dose of epsom salts and in order to take a portion which he thought commensurate with his great bulk, he took a whole pound. The intestinal distress which ensued ended in death. While this was the climax of an event it is believed that the real cause was traceable to the life of idleness he had lived since accepting the stage as a career.

HAD TO KEEP BUSY

For years according to Big Boy Finch's own story, he had refused to accept any proposals to make himself an exhibit either in the circus or on the stage. He feared the results of idleness and preferred to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. Not so much because he loved hard work but because he knew that that was the only assurance he had to live. Most of his 678 pounds were pure fat and, only in constant activity that hardened his muscles Finch saw his salvation.

Most of his early life was spent in taxing labor on railroads and state roads. Leaving his home in Lula, Georgia, several years ago, he started working his way northward. He was always the object of curious eyes wherever he went and crowds always stopped to stare whenever he issued out upon the street.

All kinds of soft jobs imaginable were offered him because of this quality for drawing crowds. In Roanoke, Virginia, he was employed at a gasoline filling station and kept prominently in the front where passing motorists would be attracted in large numbers. This job moved too soft and Deacon Finch became out of wind up in Detroit, Michigan, where he was employed in a factory.

STARTS STAGE CAREER

There he was discovered by comely Blanche Thompson, manager of Irvin C. Miller's "Brown Skin Models." The little bronze queen prevailed upon him to join her show. Of course, you could not blame him for accepting such an attractive offer from such a convincing bit of personality. Here was an opportunity to be surrounded with the race's most beautiful and shapely women, day in and day out. In the life of a person whose proportions were as liberally distributed as in the case of Deacon Finch, the companionship of the opposite sex was rare.

But strange as it seems, Deacon Finch's real pleasure with the show did not come from watching the half-nude forms of sepien beauties, a privilege which men of many cities paid their hard cash to enjoy, but in listening to the jokes of the comedians. It matters not how often he had

heard them, the droll sayings of Gallie De Gaston and Dusty Fletcher could always bring loud guffaws of laughter from the huge man who possessed a keen sense of humor.

Among his friends he numbered Cecil Rivers and Flo Brown, now in Brazil with Johnny Hudgins; George Bias, Baltimore recording artist and many others. At the time of his death he was employed as a sandwich man in front of a New York shoe store. He was always surrounded by staring crowds as he paraded up and down between expansive sign boards that were too small to cover his great form. This did not require enough exertion to use up his surplus strength and constipation naturally set in.

MANY STRANGE PEOPLE

Deacon Finch was the only actor of abnormal size appearing on the stage at the present time. There are, however, two well known midgets who are actively connected with the stage and strange as it seems both are from Baltimore. One is Princess Wee Wee of the Whitman Sisters, who for many years was an attraction with the Ringling Brothers Circus and the other is Danny Montague. He is a capable dancer and is the only colored member of the Roses Midgets, composed of 40 tiny people.

Under-sized people are much more plentiful than those who grow to the size of Deacon Finch.

From the earliest times, dwarfs attracted great attention and kings went to great lengths to obtain them for attendants. Members of the tiny Akka race in Equatorial Africa figured prominently in the courts of the Pharaohs of the early dynasties.

Even today these tiny pygmies are existing, strong and healthy and although they weigh but 70 pounds and less, on an average they are shown in the intimate film dealing with Africa, slaying huge elephants and combating the wild animals of the jungles with only bows and arrows. As a rule midgets are more perfectly formed and their physical and mental formations are generally more normal than in over-developed people.

Radio Hints

A VARIABLE CONDENSER NOISE

It will sometimes be noticed that the receiver operates satisfactorily until one of the controls is moved and then it becomes noisy. This is an indication that a mechanical defect exists in the unit being operated. In the case of variable condensers, it may be due to imperfect contact. Some of these condensers are so constructed that electrical contact is made through a friction washer or through the friction of the rotor shaft to the bushing.

When the condenser is new, no trouble is encountered. After a long period of operation, however, the wear of the parts decreases the friction and the imperfect contact which results causes noises to appear in the set.

I PLEASE MY GOD.

(Copyrighted)

- If I but give a smile each day
Some heart to cheer,
If I but drive some doubt away
And banish fear;
I please my God.
- If I a kindly word but speak
To some sad soul;
If I give succor to the weak
And help him hold;
I please my God.
- If I some heavy load help share
Some down cast life;
If I a signal will but flare
To those who drift;
I please my God.
- If I but walk the narrow path
In steps aright;
If I but warn against His wrath
And shine a light;
I please my God.
- If I can smile at Satan's rage
And still fight on;
If I can show a good, clean page
That is not torn;
I please my God.

GENEVA RANDALL TAYLOR,
1838 McCullough Street.

BRIDGE

No Trump Leads when Partner Has Not Bid

Only when the suit has been bid by his opponents should the leader fail to open his longest suit at no trump, otherwise it is always considered the wisest policy to lead it first. You not only permit your partner to know that it is your longest suit, but it will usually give you a cheap glance at Dummy.

Sometimes the leader has two long suits, then he should lead first the strongest unless he has already declared it and his partner has failed to support it. In that case he should lead the other.

Some folk decry the lead of tenace suits, but I think that with a No Trump contract it's just as easy to establish a tenace suit as it is any other. Even with a well protected king a logical lead can be made. Of course against a Trump contract, all these leads are inadvisable, but against No Trump they help mightily in establishing long suits.

If you have already declared a tenace suit and No Trump is bid by the person on your right, it is then inadvisable to lead from a tenace suit for the chances are very much in favor of the Declarer's having your missing honor in his hand, otherwise he would have not bid No Trump. In that case it is better to give your partner some other lead and permit him to lead that suit to you through Declarer's honor.

A very important point to remember in fighting No Trump contracts is to always retain as many re-entries as possible when trying to establish a suit. Play from the long suit first and then if the Declarer takes out the first trick you always have an entry with which to gain the ultimate from the lead of the long suit.

Quite often the question arises as when to lead a fourth best card of a suit when that suit contains more than one honor. If the suit contains three honors, always lead the top, touching honor. If the suit only contains two honors lead the fourth best.

There are a couple exceptions to these rules: First, if the honors are Ace-Queen-Ten, lead the fourth best, because non of the honors touch; second, if the honors are Ace-King-Ten, the fourth best is advisable unless the suit is seven card long, because the lead of the Ace or King is not considered a logical lead at No Trump.

Roxborough Honored by Michigan Senate

NEW YORK — State Senator Charles A. Roxborough, colored, presided at the April 21st session of the Michigan State Senate.

During this same session the Michigan Senate passed his civil rights bill for the protection of colored citizens of the state. The bill, which the Senate voted 13 to 0, called "The Roxborough Bill," was passed by unanimous vote of 24 to 0.