

# "Deadpan" Circus Clown Reveals Self to Interviewer As Man of Broad Knowledge

By DORIS PAYNE

"When is a clown not a clown?" The answer to that is "when he's not clowning." At least that would seem to be the case with Emmett Kelley, the so-called "dead-pan" master of monkey business who kept both oldsters and youngsters at the Cole brothers' circus chuckling with delight at his expressively expressionless take-off of a WPA'er.

Interviewed behind the scenes at Monday's matinee performance, Kelley's keenly informed and intelligent conversation utterly belied his rags and tatters, bulbous red putty nose and "duck feet" which are his stock in trade under the bright lights of the big top. Gone was the hungry, wistful look which has turned many a woman's face red as he gazed at her with the hurt, longing expression of an abused and famished derelict of society. In its place was a quick, friendly smile and ready wit.

Nor is it likely that Kelley the clown will ever have the opportu-

ity to see if his "act" would go over as well with a WPA boss as it does with a circus audience, for he is too versatile to ever be that far down on his luck. In addition to being a talented tickler of funny bones, he is also an expert aerialist and cartoonist of considerable ability . . . an artist at them all.

His circus career started about the time the war ended and grew out of his ability to pantomime the chief character of a comic strip he had created with pen and ink. Once a full-fledged knight of the sawdust ring, however, his ambitions soared higher. He began to consider clowning too lowly a profession and took to the high trapezes.

"It seemed so much more romantic, you know," said Kelley. "I was young and single then and flying through the air in a pair of pretty silk tights had an irresistible glamour about it. It took about 10 years to work that out of my system and come back to earth again."

"Turning trapeze artist was one

of the biggest mistakes I ever made," Kelley went on. "If I'd stuck to the clowning instead of going romantic, I'd probably been able to break into the movies in the old silent picture days and collected a nice bank role. Just last year down in Hollywood, Spencer Tracy said to me, 'Kelley, if you'd walked into any big movie studio 15 years ago rigged up in that outfit of yours and with that dead pan, all you'd have had to say to cop a fat contract would have been here I am!'"

But even without a movie contract, Kelley the clown is well on his way to international fame. He is leaving for England about December 1 for a five weeks' stand as a featured performer with the Olympia circus in London, which is an elaborate set-up combining circus thrills and carnival attractions under the enormous roof of one of England's largest amusement halls. It differs from the circus we know in this country, too, he explained, in that there aren't a dozen things going on at one time to distract the attention of the audience. Each performer is an "artiste" and performs as sole center of the spotlight while his act is on.

Then Kelley's face grew serious. "That is, I'm going if England doesn't get mixed up in this big war mess," he stated emphatically, at the same time inquiring for the latest news about the bomb-

ing of the President Hoover. When told that the Chinese had offered profuse apologies and full redress, he relaxed into a smile. "Well, it's a relief to hear that. But there's no telling what complications will take place between now and December, and if things get too hot over there, I'm going to stay right here in the good old U. S. A. I'd like to make the trip and I like to clown under the big top . . . but not under a rain of bombs! No thanks!"

PORTLAND, Aug. 31 (AP)—Harry Elliott of Eugene, who referees the weekly middleweight wrestling cards here, doubled as a wrestler last night and took two out of three falls from Scotty McEugall of Glasgow.

Sailor Norman, New Orleans, won in straight falls from Bob Cummings of El Paso, Texas; Professor Tetsura Higami of Japan wrestled a half-hour draw with Otis Clingman of Oklahoma City, and Don Sagal, Salem, downed Klem Kusek, Tacoma.

CHICAGO, Aug. 31 (AP)—Rip Collins, Chicago Cub's first baseman who suffered a fractured ankle August 10, hopes to celebrate the Cub's return to Chicago next Saturday by throwing away his crutches.

Collins believes that within two weeks he will be back in action.

## Quirks in The News

RICHWOOD, N. J. (AP)—They're "abaving" peaches now. When buyers complained of heavy fuzz on the fruit, Wade Heritage, owner of a peach farm here, attached a series of brushes to his sorting machine. They strip the peaches of their fuzz.

ONE SNAKE-POWER CHERAW, S. C. (AP)—A six-foot snake halted power service to a brick factory here by detouring 22,000 volts of electricity through its body.

Repairmen found the reptile had climbed a 12-foot pole and wrapped around two wires, causing a short circuit.

JUST IN TIME SEATTLE, Wash. (AP)—The burglar alarm didn't work, so Grocer Perry Biggs decided to fix it. He puzzled with the apparatus until he felt a pistol thrust against his back.

The bandit robbed him of \$270.

IN THE WAY MUSKOGEE, Okla. (AP)—One column on the state highway

patrol daily report is reserved for the number and kinds of obstructions removed from highways. Sergeant Leonard Fox made this notation: "Obstructions removed—Two drunks."

NEW YORK. (AP)—Jean Williams, 41-year-old Negro, was affected deeply by last night's postponement of the Louis-Farr fight. He (A) got into a fight with his wife, (B) went out and got drunk, (C) turned in a false fire alarm. "I sympathize with you," said Magistrate Klapp. He halved the fine.

BOONTON, N. J. (UP)—Police tonight sought the third passenger in an airplane that crashed here yesterday injuring the other two occupants. The object of the hunt was "Sparky," a Cairn terrier, owned by John Hay Whitney. The dog fled in terror after the crash.

PERTH AMBOY, N. J. (UP)—A gunman by his side pressing an unloaded revolver into his ribs, William Bath, taxi-driver, sped past a police car today violating all the city ordinances in an attempt to attract attention. The police car chased him, drew alongside and a voice of the law shouted "Take it easy." Then the police car drifted away.

## Dam Turbines Prove Fatal to Young Salmon

PORTLAND, Aug. 31 (UP)—Electric turbines at dams are not the best thing in the world for fingerling salmon, tests at Cazadero dam Sunday indicated.

State, federal and county officials watched while about a thousand of the fish were lowered into the turbine intake in paper bags. A net at the tail-race caught the fish as they emerged, broken, cut in two, and dying.

Later tests, where the bags were lowered into deep water and then released, showed that more of the fish came out alive, but still 50 per cent of them were mangled by the spinning machinery. In the first paper bag tests, only about 10 per cent emerged alive.

along about 11:15 p. m. was the W. K. Limb going down with all exports aboard. . . . The scribes are a shame-faced lot today. . . . Some of the out-of-towners are afraid to go home. . . . Joe Jacobs, manager of Max Schmeling, rubbed it in hard. . . . "All those experts," he snorted, "contemptuous by, 'should be stood in bed' . . . Anyway, Farr gave 'em a licking even if he couldn't quite get past Joe Louis. . . . So we hold the telegrams of ridicule in one hand and reach for the headache powders with the other.

Louis looked bad. . . . For a while the fans told themselves he merely was holding back for an opening. . . . But as the fight went on, Farr disproved this. . . . Joe couldn't find an opening against the teasing, hobbling, weaving style of the Britisher. . . . Louis admitted after the fight he was able to land only one good punch and it took him 13 rounds to do this. . . . It was the first of Joe's major bouts in which somebody didn't get knocked down. . . . Max Schmeling again saw "some-dings."

Several times between rounds it looked like a puzzled Joe Louis was about to cry. . . . Reports in Farr's dressing room said Tommy had bet \$7,500 on himself—\$2000 at 2 to 1 that he would stay 10 rounds and \$5000 at 5 to 1 and 7 to 2 that he would win.

## Sport Briefs

By EDDIE BRIETZ

NEW YORK, Aug. 31 (AP)—Boys, paste this one in your kellys: Fight experting is gone forever. . . . Tommy Farr, the surprising gent from Wales, saw to that. . . . That big crash you heard

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