

Mark Anthony-An American Original

By Rich Snowberg



Mark Anthony was born Mark Galkowski in Norwich, Connecticut in 1915. His mother and father both died by the time he was 13 years of age. He dropped out of school at age 15 when he attempted to join Sells Floto Circus. He was rejected because of his young age. During the depression he hopped freight trains, worked as a dancer and acrobat, and finally joined a circus. Except for a term of service with the Merchant Marines, he spent his entire remainder of his life performing in circuses. He appeared in Sells Floto, Harris Show, Dan Rice Circus, Clyde-Beaty-Cole Bros and Ringling Bros. & Barnum and Bailey Circus. He clowned throughout North America as well as in Japan, Russia, Australia and England.

Mark loved people and if anyone ever wrote to him, he responded with a hand written letter. He never married but had one living sister at the time of his death. He always felt the circus was his family and the many friends he had within that community.

Many clowns today cherish one of the props that Mark made through his artistic creativity. Using foam rubber, he made jumbo props as large as full sized elephants, as well as many walking-basket style walkaround props such as horses, ostriches, pink elephants, etc. He was also a master wood carver and created hundreds of full figure likenesses of clown friends.

Mark's image previously appeared as a drawing on the July 1990 cover of Clowning Around. He died in that same summer, and his remains are in a cemetery in Delavan, Wisconsin where over 100 other 'old time' circus performers also found their final resting places.

During the last four years of his career, Mark was associated with the Univ. of Wisc-La Crosse Clown Camp program. Following his death, an educational scholarship was established in his name. This scholarship, up to the time of the closing of the Clown Camp program, was awarded to several hundred different persons. Each recipient of this monetary award also received a clown likeness of Mark on a cloth patch. Today you will still see WCA members proudly wearing this patch on their jackets or vests.

