

THE CARNEY KING

Says he pushed newspapers when he was six, by the time he was nine, he was king of the paper boys. Says he worked hard all his life. Says when he was twenty three he saw a man shuffling down the street with his hat jammed down over half his face. He stopped the man and looked at his face, said, "What do ya do for a living?" "I'm a janitor." "How much ya make?" "Forty dollars a week." "I'll give ya a hundred a week if ya work for me."

"He had three eyes and two noses. I billed him as the Ugliest Man In The World. He's dead now, but he was making three-four hundred a week working for me by the time he was dead. I also feature the Alligator Lady, with scales covering her body from a weird skin disease, and the two-headed baby, who we just show a plaster replica of, on account of it's against the law. But I got the baby hid away, so's I can't be prosecuted. I don't hurt nobody. People pay to see what they wanna see, and my freaks get good dough. I'm the King of the Carney because I got an eye for what people wanna see. And I make good dough too, see, like a lawyer or a ... well, not as much as a doctor."

Playing the mike like a Robert Goulet he barks, "Come and see 'em folks! Freaks! The Weird. The Strange. The Odd. Just one dolla. What can ya buy wid just one dolla these days, folks? Come one come all! The Show is on! The Show never ends

THE CARNEY BOY

Says we're just human. Like yous. Says we work hard and don't got to take no shit from nobody. Like when a ring misses the peg and they want me to pick it up and give 'em another chance. Shit, no! We work commission and some days I work hard and long and freeze my nuts and make maybe four, five bucks. Says, I love the carnival. It's my whole life.

THE ALLIGATOR LADY

I got scaly skin from some rare disease. I was married before that. I make out alright. I mean, it's OK and it ain't. I mean, we're all whores anyhow.

-- Jonathan London

Forestville CA