

BOB HERMINES

Magazine of Lidgets

The only Magazine of World's smallest People
Articles and Pictures, etc., of lasting
Interest for everybody



25¢

ERT RICHTER

A fairy Tale comes true!

BOB HERMINES

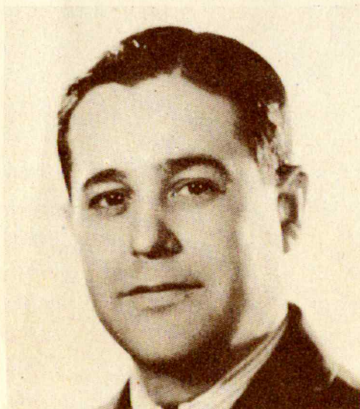
Magazine

of Midgets

1945 EDITION 1945

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
"Butch" the Smallest Drummer	1
History of Midgets, Article	2
History of Midgets, Illustrations	3
Lilliput Town, Article	4
Lilliput Town, Pictures	5
Love and Marriage among Midgets, Article	6
Parade of the Bathing Beauties, Picture	7
Can Midgets give Birth to Babies?, Article	8
Vaudeville Thrills by Hermine's Midgets	9
Members of Bob Hermine's Midgets	10
Members of Bob Hermine's Midgets	11
Story of Bob Hermine's Midgets	12
Travels, Pictures	13
The great Fight for the Flea Weight Title	14
Sport, Pictures	15
More Vaudeville Thrills by Hermine's Midgets	16
Contrasts, Pictures	17



BOB HERMINE
(Rebernigg)

Publisher and Editor of
BOB HERMINE'S
MAGAZINE of MIDGETS:
Robert Rebernigg
140-33 Rose Avenue
Flushing, L. I., New York

Production and Author of
Cover, drawings, articles, etc.
Berthold Richter
43-06 Kissena Blvd.
Flushing, L. I., New York
All rights reserved

Copyright 1945 by
Robert Rebernigg



"BUTCH"

The smallest drummer on earth and his big drum

SHORT CUT

HISTORY OF MIDGETS

ANCIENT EGYPT:

In ancient Egypt a certain midget was adored so much that after his death the Egyptians elevated him to a god. He became "BES" the god of pleasure and averting witchcraft. From then on the Egyptians regarded every midget as an earthly representation of "BES", and therefore, midgets were so greatly respected in those days.

ANCIENT ROME:

The ancient Romans were very fond of Midgets too. Emperor Augustus was a fan of Midgets. Two midgets, Conopas and his sister Andromeda, were owned by Julia, niece of Augustus. Emperor Domitian trained midgets as miniature gladiators to fight each other in his famous Roman circus. Tiberius and Mark Antonius owned midgets. Two midgets Marius and Markus were raised to nobles of Rome.

ITALY:

In the fourteenth century a midget was king of the southern part of Italy. He was Charles III, King of Naples and Sicily and his people liked him very much because of his tiny size.

FRANCE:

Charles IX, King of France (1550-74) kept midgets for his pleasure. Catherine de Medici, Queen of France (1519-89) tried to create a new midget race by deliberately mating midgets. Isabelle d'Este of Spain tried the same, likewise without success.

ENGLAND:

Queen Mary's (1516-58) page of honor was a midget by name John Darvis. Queen Elizabeth (1533-1603) favored Miss Tomysen, a tiny beauty. Charles I, (1600-49) had a midget page Richard Gibson who was a noted court painter of excellent miniatures. Queen

Henrietta's favourite midget was the beautiful Ann Shephard who became the wife of Richard Gibson.

RUSSIA:

Joseph Borulavsky, a midget born 1739 in Russian Poland, two feet two inches tall, was the favourite of the Countess Humiecka. Travelling with the Countess to all European courts he turned into a "Don Juan" in miniature. Because of his countless love affairs the jealous countess kept him confined in her castle. But there he fell in love with a girl-friend of the countess and after eloping with his new sweetheart he married the girl.

He became a rich man by exhibiting himself and publishing his adventures, and died after a remarkable long life of ninety-eight years in 1837 A.D.

UNITED STATES:

The first reported American born midget was Calvin Phillips, two feet one inch tall. He was born in Massachusetts in 1791 and died at the youthful age of twenty-one in 1812.

In 1832 the most famous midget of all time,—Charles Sherwood Stratton—, was born in the United States. He was discovered by the greatest show-man of all time Phineas T. Barnum, who gave him the name "Tom Thumb" and made a fortune with him. After a couple of years of exhibition Tom retired as a wealthy man.

When Barnum went broke Tom reappeared and was again the greatest success for Barnum. At thirty Tom married Lavinia Warren, a midget girl two feet eight inches tall. After a third tour Tom retired definitively and died after a life full of fame and money at the age of fifty-one in 1883.

A contemporary of Tom was the Cuban midget beauty Chiquita, who married a normal sized man.

SHORT CUT

HISTORY OF MIDGETS

ANCIENT EGYPT



ANCIENT ROME



ITALY



FRANCE



ENGLAND



RUSSIAN POLAND



1st AMERIC. MIDGET UNITED STATES



TOM THUMB



DRAWINGS BY

BERT RICHTER



JUST imagine: you had to live in a house the rooms of which have windows as large as the show windows of a department store, and are furnished with chairs so big and high you have to climb them instead of simply sitting down on them, the bed is so large that six adult persons could comfortably sleep and you alone would almost get lost in it, and when you wash or shave you have got to use a step-ladder to reach the basin or to look in the mirror. You wouldn't like that, would you? Because it would not be very comfortable.

But midgets usually have got to live that way. They must use furniture and many other things made for normal sized persons but far too big for Lilliputians. There are only a few midgets who can afford of having their house or furniture built in proportion to their tiny size.

In general, there are no special midget houses, no midget-furniture (except a few things made for children), no midget-cars etc., available.

Thus Lilliputians just keep dreaming of comfortable homes, made in proportion to their smallness. Their dreams are getting even better when they are dreaming of a complete community, a midget village.

Sometimes their dreams come true, the realization lasting a couple of months only in every twenty or twenty-five years.

When somewhere a great international exhibition takes place a midget village is always the most attractive sensation of it. There where such "Lilliput-Towns" in New York's World's Fair, in San Francisco, in London, Paris, Lyon, and in Vienna.

The houses of such a Lilliput-Town are usually not higher than a normal sized grown-up person and the doors

and windows, are made on a small scale, accommodated to the little dwellers. The little rooms are furnished with miniature-chairs, -tables, -couches, -dressers, etc., little kitchens and bathrooms. Some rooms have a fireplace in "midget-size" and are nicely decorated with candles and flowers, with curtains and carpets, with pictures and needlework, etc. They are really cosy.

In a Lilliput-Town you can see plenty of other very interesting things. Almost everything what makes a real town is also to be found in a midget-community. There are public buildings there, built on a reduced scale, as the town-hall, the post-office, the guard-house, hotel, theatre, etc., yes, even a jail.

A Lilliput-Town is full of life and its little folks are very busy. Traffic is "heavy" and ruled by midget-policemen. Little cars and cute pony-carriages, miniature bicycles and motor-cycles are "jamming" the Main Street of Lilliput. Handsome members of the town-guard in bright uniforms, looking like tin-soldiers, led by the Midget Military Band, are marching through the town. Visitors are shopping at the little stores, where needle-work, keepsakes, jewelry, postcards, midget-magazines, etc. are sold by pretty midget sales-ladies. At the Lilliput Inn midget-waiters are serving the guests and a Lilliputian bartender mixes expertly cocktails at the Midget Bar, where often a tiny gentleman drunk "under the table" many a normal sized person.

In a Lilliput Town there are many entertainments as concerts of the Midget Band, sport-games, parades, dancing parties, and plenty of other amusements. But the top-event of them all is the great show on the stage presented by BOB, and performed by the smallest vaudeville-artistes on earth, by

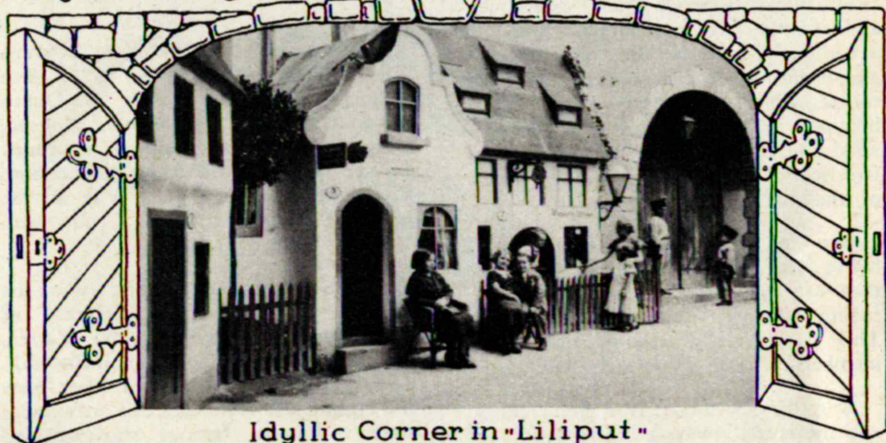
"HERMINE'S MIDGETS"

LILIPUT TOWN



Midgets cheering Gulliver

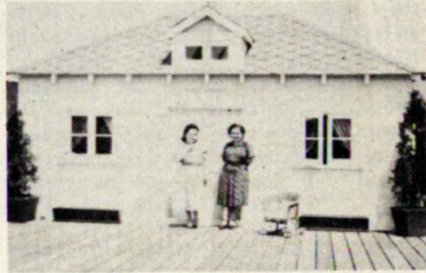
The "Jail"



Idyllic Corner in "Liliput"



Married and...happy!



Two Spinsters



Love and Marriage

AMONG MIDGETS

YES, there are such things as love and marriage among midgets. And why not? Midgets are human beings with exactly the same affections and feelings like you and you and you. But because there are not so many midgets on this earth they have neither the same large choice nor the same chance to meet each other as normal sized men and women usually do have.

That's why, there are only a few married midget-couples. But when they marry, midgets marry for love only, not by reason of business, not for a name, not for money.

Marriages between midget-gentlemen and normal-sized girls happen once in a while, marriages between midget-ladies and normal-sized men almost never. Of course, there were harmless flirtations between tiny-sized women and normal-sized men, who have been attracted irresistibly by the charm and loveliness of their diminutive sweethearts.

But in general, although midget-ladies are sociable and like company, they are very reserved and strictly refusing advances of normal-sized men. This is especially true of the female members of Bob Hermine's Midgets.

A midget wedding is a great rarity, and therefore, always a big sensation for the city in which it takes place. Thousands of excited people are lining the streets to see the wedding parade of cars and carriages with the wedding-guests, and to cheer the bride and the groom, the bridesmaids and the bestman, all of whom are midgets too, and exceptionally fine dressed up for the celebration.

The church is crowded with guests and curious people and it happened that so many people were jamming the entrance of the church that bride, groom,

and attendants had to be carried over the heads of the crowd into the church.

After the ceremony there was always a big wedding party and a reception for hundreds of guests, and of course, there were countless cute wedding gifts. And there has always been a big wedding-cake. I remember a midget wedding where a giant cake, the biggest wedding-cake ever made, was presented to the newly wed. It was a cream-layer, eight feet in diameter, about ten inches thick, the center part, very skillfully decorated, about three feet high. After it was cut by the midget-bride, literally, hundreds of people could not finish that delicious cake.

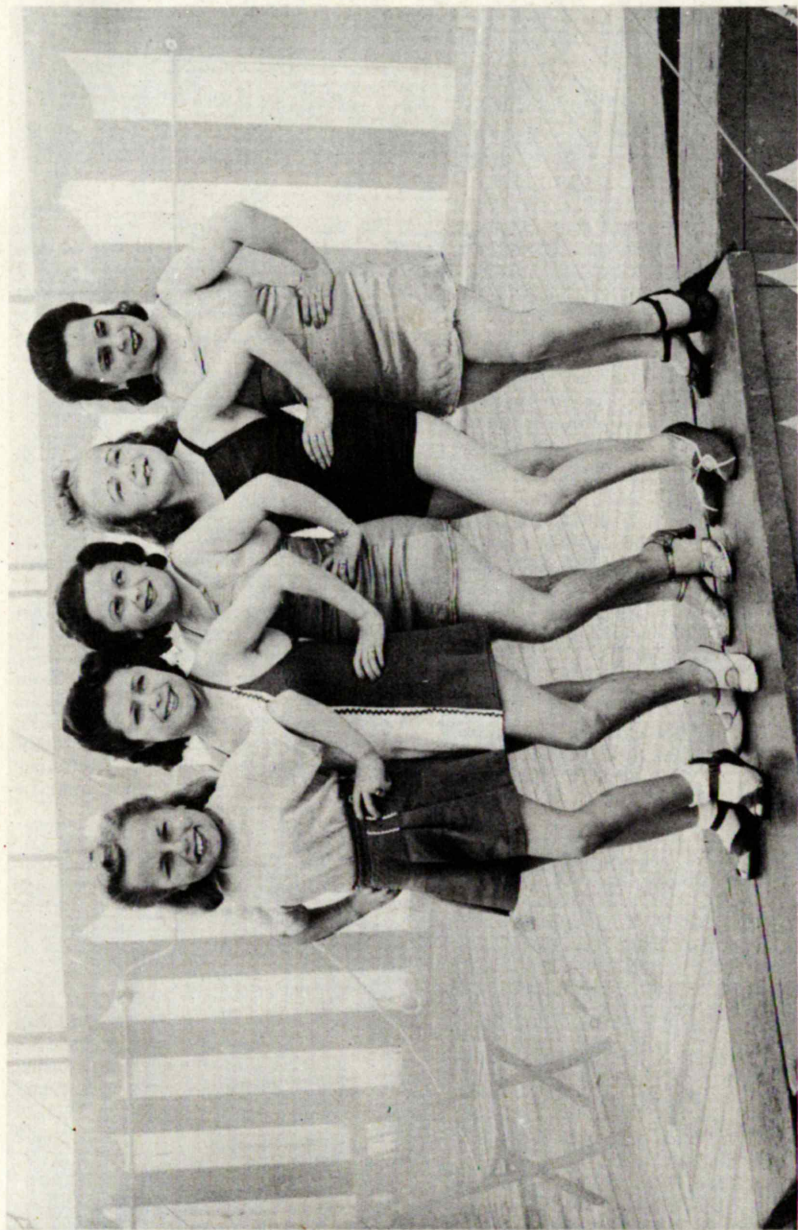
A famous historic marriage between Lilliputians was the wedding of Ann Shephard, favourite midget of Queen Henrietta Maria, and Richard Gibson, midget-page of honor and noted court-painter of King Charles I of England. The celebration took place with all the grandeur and splendor of a court-wedding of those days.

Another famous wedding was the marriage of "General Tom Thumb" of the Barnum Show with Lavinia Warren, a midget girl, two feet eight inches tall. That wedding was said to have been the eighth world-wonder, but no wonder since the most famous showman on earth made the arrangements (see History of Midgets).

—o—

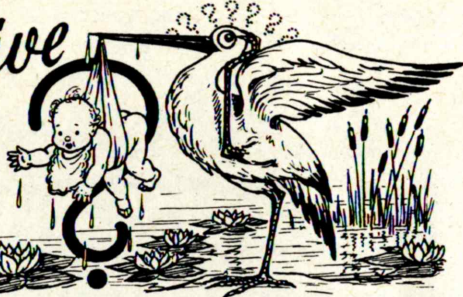
Can you top this?

A married man, six feet tall, came to a tailor and ordered a custom-made man's house-robe. Said the tailor: "You will need about three yards for your house-robe." Said the customer: "O no! For my robe only one yard will do it—confidentially, when at home with my wife I am as small as a midget."



PARADE of HERMINE'S MIDGET-BATHING-BEAUTIES in ATLANTIC CITY

Can Midgets give Birth to Babies



OF course! They don't have to wait for the stork. However, there are some interesting facts in that matter. But first let's go in for a little biology of midgets.

What is a MIDGET? A perfectly proportioned reproduction in miniature of a normal-sized and grown human being. The height of a midget should be not more than four feet six inches, the smallest size known is one foot eight inches.

Don't mistake a DWARF for a MIDGET. A dwarf is stunted in growth and has usually some deformity.

A PIGMY is another kind of under-sized human beings and as a rule somewhat taller than midgets. The PIGMY belongs to the PIGMY-race, colored people living in Central Africa.

A LILLIPUTIAN is a fictitious name for an inhabitant of Lilliput, the fabulous country in the fairy-tale "Gulliver's Travels" by Jonathan Swift.

Midgets beget midgets on very rare occasions. As a rule, midget women give birth to normal-sized babies, who also grow up to normal adulthood. On the other hand midgets are usually children of normal-sized parents: But, there are exceptions: In cases where one of the parents is of normal size, and the other part is a midget the baby can be either of normal size or a midget. For example, a normal-sized woman being married to a midget-husband can give birth to a midget-baby as well as to a normal-sized child.

The number of children, a midget-woman can have, is in some cases amazing. Mrs. Henry Blosser, for instance, an American midget lady, who died in 1932, gave birth to fifteen children and her off-springs numbered as many as eighty grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren.

Another "great little" mother was Mrs. Judith Skinner, a tiny lady of two feet three inches, having been married with her midget-husband Mr. Robert Skinner twenty-three happy years. She gave birth to fourteen children, boys as well as girls. She had to undergo fourteen Caesarian operations, a really remarkable case of midget-motherhood.

In 1742 Mr. and Mrs. Skinner went with all of their children on an exhibition tour in England and made within two years over \$110,000, a lot of money in those old days. They retired and lived as wealthy people until their end.

Francisco Leporati, an Italian midget three feet five inches tall, married in 1760 a normal-sized woman. His wife gave birth to nine children, five of whom were midgets. One of his midget-sons married also a normal-sized girl, who gave birth to four normal-sized children. After his first wife died the son married again a tall woman by whom he had four midget-boys.

The idea of mating midgets to create a new human race is as old as history itself and was repeatedly tried in the centuries gone by. Especially Queens and Princesses regarded it as a kind of royal hobby.

These matings by royal command had always been unhappy experiments. Because midgets can give birth to normal babies with the aid of Caesarian operations only, unknown to the doctors of those days, the birth led always to death of mother and child.

Catherine de Medici, Queen of France, Princess Natalia, sister of Tsar Peter the Great of Russia, and Isabelle d'Este, Queen of Spain were among the unsuccessful "breeders" of a new "Midget Race".

VAUDEVILLE THRILLS by HERMINES MIDGETS



MILITARY BAND A'LA "UNCLE SAM"



TRAPEZE ACT



MINUET DANCE

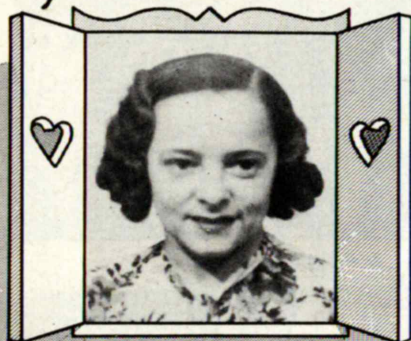


SOLOIST

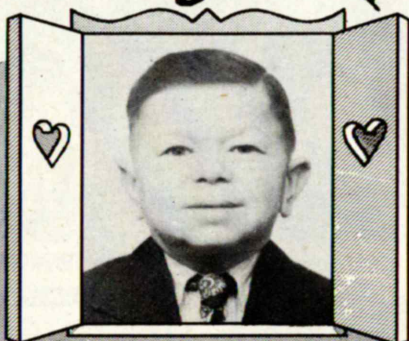


WIRE-WALKING

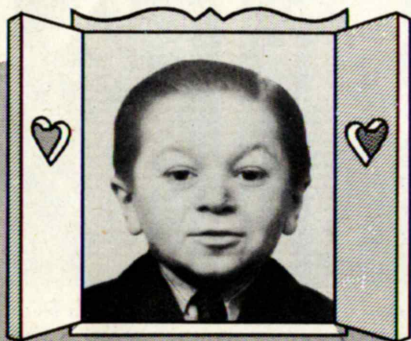
MEMBERS OF BOB
Hermine's Midgets



THERESA ROBlickA



ALOIS SAPIK



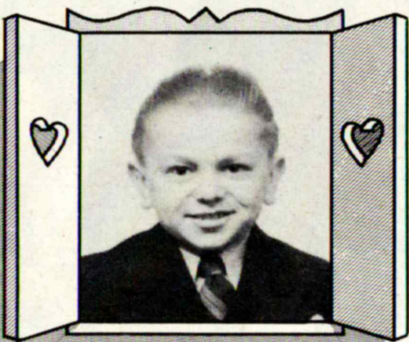
FREDDY KAROLLUS



HILDA KAROLLUS



MIMI KRISH



JOE KRISH

MEMBERS OF BOB

Hermine's Midgets



GEORGE RUFF



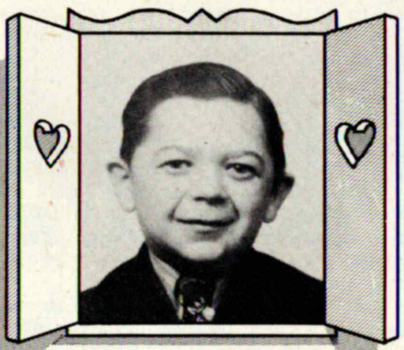
MARY WOOD



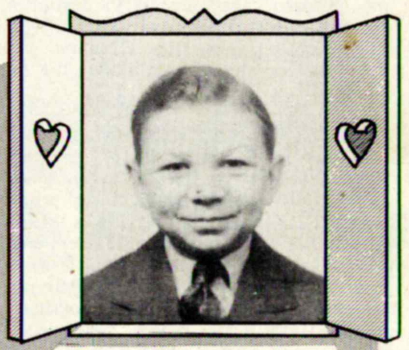
ELIZABETH TOLLNER



LOUIS VASEK



WILLIAM HAASZ



FRED SOUCEK



STORY OF BOB HERMINE'S MIDGETS



It was in spring 1934 when on the grounds of Vienna's famous Amusement Park as main attraction a midget-village named "LILLIPUT" was opened. Among the midgets populating that village were a few Austrians, Czechoslovaks, Yugoslavs, and Hungarians, who soon became close friends. At the same place was working a normal-sized young Czechoslovak Bob Rebernigg as an electrician responsible for all light effects of the midget-village. But Bob was not only an electrician and radio-technician but also a circus performer, a juggler. His father owned a circus in Vienna, his uncle ran a big tent-circus and all of his kin were circus-performers.

The midget-village was a great success, and therefore, reopened in 1935 and 1937. When in 1937 the conditions in Austria were getting worse because of political unrest, Bob and his stepmother HERMINE decided to form a new midget troupe composed only of the midgets of nationalities mentioned above. Bob as an experienced circus performer trained his midgets to be acrobats, wire-walkers, aerialists, boxers, and so on. Besides, each of them learned to play an instrument, thus setting up BOB HERMINE'S unique Military Band and Midget-Jazz-Band. Mrs. Hermine sewed the necessary costumes, working day and night to speed up the start because Bob and Hermine had already spent all of their money for the troupe.

Finally, Bob and Hermine and their brand-new Midget-troupe of ten left Vienna, the city of Strauss-waltzes, and started on a tour through Italy, where two more midgets joined them. BOB HERMINE'S MIDGETS appeared with great success in Rome, Milano, Turino, Pisa, Verona, Florence, Naples, Palermo, the island of Elba, Napoleon's exile, to mention only a few places.

While touring Italy, Mrs. Hermine fell seriously ill, and died in Merano, where she has been buried, being deep-

ly mourned by her husband, by her midgets, by her stepson and partner Bob as well as by many people who knew the late lady and her lovable character.

BOB HERMINE'S MIDGETS went from Italy to Paris, where they got a contract for the NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1939 to appear in its top attraction, in the "MIRACLE-TOWN" of the smallest people. Bob's Midgets have been such a success, that the troupe was reengaged for the second season of the WORLD'S FAIR in 1940.

In 1941 HERMINE'S MIDGETS started touring the U.S.A. They appeared twice in Chicago at the "Stadium" together with the "Lone Ranger", at the "Arena" in Detroit, in Boston at the "Boston Garden", in Cleveland "Auditorium", in Minneapolis at "Zuhra Shrine Circus" and many more places.

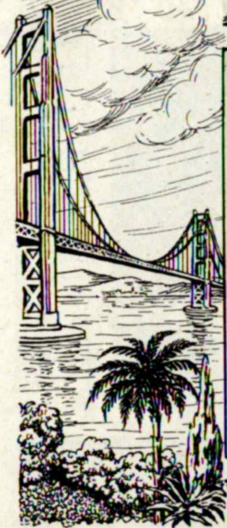
During two summer seasons they worked in Atlantic City on the Million Dollar Pier together with Kate Smith and Peter Lorre. In two summer seasons the troupe toured all of the eastern states from Maine to Georgia with the "WORLD OF MIRTH SHOWS", and have been reengaged for the summer 1945.

In between, there were appearances on the screen and radio, at theatres, night-clubs, movie-houses, etc., at U.S.O. Shows, Army Hospitals, and of course, at WAR BOND Drives.

All the contracts of BOB HERMINE'S MIDGETS are managed exclusively by DAVE SOLTI of the noted agency for world-attractions SOLTI & GRUND, 10 Rockefeller Plaza, suite 1029, Radio City, New York, Phone Circle 5-8930.

BOB HERMINE'S MIDGETS are successful not only because they are midgets gifted with extraordinary talents but also because their chief "BOB", coming up the hard way, is the right man at the right place at the right time.

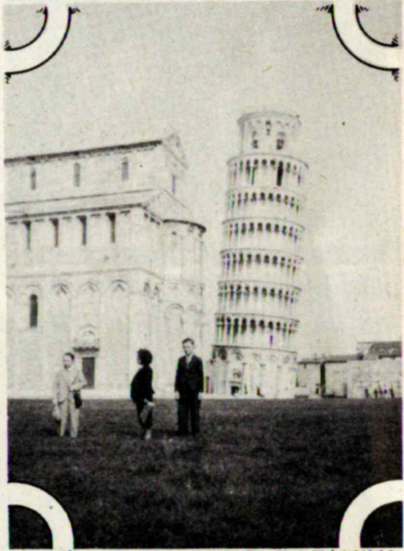
TRAVELS



ARRIVAL IN PARIS-FRANCE



"CAPT. JOE KRISH ON THE BOARDWALK IN ATLANTIC-CITY, U.S.



BOB'S MIDGETS AT THE LEANING TOWER IN PISA - ITALY



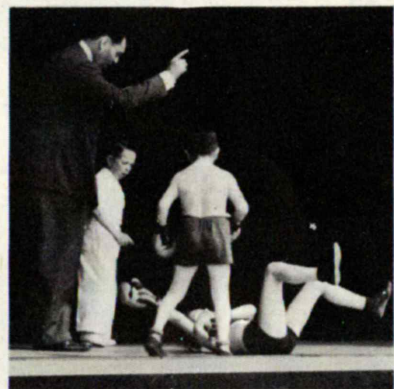
THE GREAT FIGHT FOR THE FLEA-WEIGHT TITLE



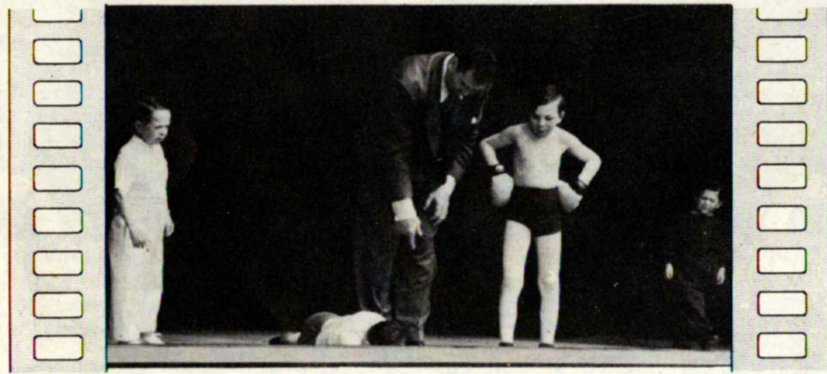
SPARRING



REFEREE: JACK DEMPSEY



COUNTING



...EIGHT...NINE...TEN.....OUT!!

SPORT



Midgets are sport fans and exercise almost every kind of sport. They know how to keep fit and strong their tiny but well-proportioned bodies in the open. Swimming and sunbathing is their favorite sport. Next they like horseback-riding and bicycling. One little gentleman of Hermine's Midgets built for himself a cute motor-cycle in measurements according to his size. Hermine's Midgets formed even a football-team which won already a remarkable number of matches against similar teams. They like fishing and are the most patient and lucky anglers.



VAUDEVILLE THRILLS by HERMINES MIDGETS



"HERMINE'S MIDGET MILITARY-BAND"



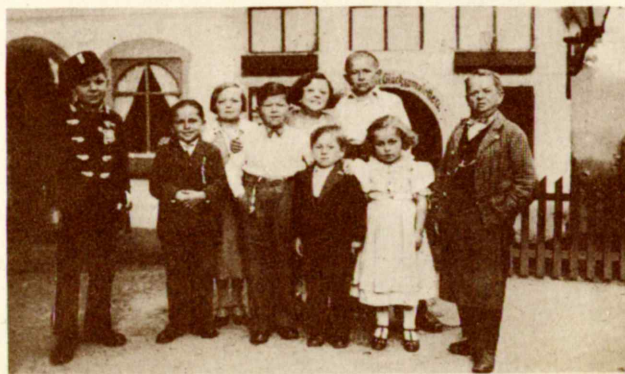
"ACROBATS"



"WIRE-ROPE DANCERS"

CONTRASTS

THEN—when they started in 1937



NOW—at a War Bond Drive in U.S.A.



MIDGETS and GIANTS

