

1936 Scrapbook, image 84

Saturday, April 17, 1937

WORLD-FAMED MIDGET DIES HERE

CHARLES NESTEL, WORLD-FAMOUS MIDGET, DIES HERE AT AGE OF 88.

FRIENDS AT BEDSIDE DURING LAST HOURS

WAS TOAST OF THEATRE FOR 50 YEARS WITH HIS SISTER, ELIZA.

Death drew the curtain at 11 a.m. today on the colorful career of Charles Nestel, aged 88, world-famous midget who, for more than half a century, was the toast of the theatre in the United States and Europe in the role of Commodore Foote.

The beloved midget, familiar to all Fort Wayne since his retirement from the stage more than twenty years ago, passed away quietly at his home at 719 East Lewis Street, following an illness of eight weeks. Senility was given as the cause of his death.

At his bedside during the last hours of his life was his equally-famous stage partner and sister-Miss Eliza Nestel, who just a few weeks ago celebrated her eightieth birthday. Also with him was his brother, Daniel, and sister, Charlotte Brooks, of Fort Wayne, both of normal size, and many other relatives and friends.

OLDEST MIDGET IN WORLD.

The famed Lilliputian, who appeared before the royalty of Europe, never completely recovered from an attack of gland trouble which had him close to death for many weeks in the Summer of 1934. Physicians marveled that he lived as long as he did. Mr. Nestel was reputed to be the oldest midget in the world.

During an interview with a News-Sentinel reporter on the occasion of his eighty-seventh birthday, September 14, 1935, he sadly remarked:

"I don't expect Eliza and I will have many more birthdays."

He was continually cheerful, however, until the end, his friends reported.

Only the older members of the present generation recall the days when Commodore Foote and his tiny partner, Eliza were playing to packed theatres throughout the world. (PHOTO PROVIDED)

Tuesday, April 20, 1937

COMMODORE FOOTE IS LAID TO REST IN A TINY GRAVE IN LINDENWOOD CEMETERY

Commodore Foote is waiting for his Queenie in a tiny grave in Lindenwood Cemetery.

With the ghost of a smile on his lips, the beloved midget, born Charles Nestel more than 88 years ago, was tenderly laid to rest in the Nestel family lot late today.

Beside him, in a specially-constructed double vault, is space for another tiny coffin.

And above him is a single monument with the inscription: "Charles and Eliza Nestel."

For Charles and Eliza, better known to the world at large as Commodore Foote and Queenie, although separated for the first time in 80 years, will some day be together again.

Only a small group of close friends and relatives attended the simple funeral services for the Commodore this afternoon at the home of A.J. Sallott, 719 East Lewis Street.

Services for Mr. Nestel were strictly private because of the illness of his midget sister and one-time stage partner, Eliza, who has been in bed for the past two weeks with a serious affliction which physicians fear may prove fatal.

Eliza was held in the arms of a sister, like a little child, while the Rev. J. McNeal Wheatley delivered a brief funeral sermon, but she was unable to go to the cemetery with the other mourners.

CARRIED TO COFFIN

Eliza was carried from her bed to the coffin of her brother this morning for the first time since his death on Saturday.

She could not see the coffin, nor the still form of her brother, because she has been blind for several years.

(cut off)... coffin and tenderly place her tiny fingers on the face of her departed brother.

It was a peaceful face-not the face of an unhappy man. A faint smile indicated that as he passed away he was cherishing memories of his colorful stage career, during which he appeared before the royalty of Europe.

The Commodore was clothed in a full dress suit which he had worn on the stage more than half a century ago. The coffin, built to order, was slightly more than four feet in length.

Telegrams and letters of condolence have been received by the Nestels from all over the world. Several were sent by former stage associates of the Commodore and his sister, and fellow midgets who knew them only by reputation.

The body was viewed by more than five hundred friends and acquaintances Monday afternoon and evening.

February 13, 1937

DR. BESKIN RETURNS TO OLD TIME RELIGION TABERNACLE FOR REVIVAL CAMPAIGN

Converted Jewish Rabbi, will conduct a revival campaign at the Old Time Religion Tabernacle, corner Warsaw and Boltz streets, beginning Sunday. Services Sunday at 10:30, 2:30 and 7:30, and each night next week at 7:30.

Dr. Beskin's subject for Sunday afternoon will be "Can Democracy Survive?" He will speak on prophetic subjects from night to night. (PHOTO PROVIDED)

February 17, 1937

Little David Joseph Stucky admiring his dad's strong, health "Geneva" chicks. You must have good chicks to make big profits. Start right-Order "Geneva" Chicks. (PHOTO PROVIDED)

Adams County Historical Museum

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Transcribed by Deb & Michelle Schevenius