

SHOWMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA

CANADIAN CHAPTER



★ ★ ★ AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SHOWMEN FOR SHOWMEN ★ ★ ★

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

★ ★ ★ 216 Beverley Street Toronto Ontario M5T 1Z3 Ph: 416 979 2031 ★ ★ ★



CUTTING UP JACKPOTS ON THE ROAD

- PRESIDENT'S QUOTE:**.....A Few Words From Pud
- REPORT FROM TORONTO**.....International News & Views
- WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CARNIE**.....Don Berman in 1972
- PAST PRESIDENT'S BIO**From Painting #1 Patty Conklin
- DID YOU KNOW?**Where the Word MIDWAY Comes From?
- WAYS AND MEANS**FUNraisers
- MEMORIALS - PASSING**Lest We Forget
- CEMETERY REPORT**Message From Paul Bissonette
- MEETING DATES PLUS**Dues, Parties & Billings
- CONSTITUTION** .WHAT IS THE CLUB - A Periodical Refresher on a Few of the Club's By-Laws & Constitutions

Right Upper pic: Eric Slavinick: a premiere concessionaire with Bernard Shows is now in the furniture business out in Alberta and is doing very well. He got out of the carnival business over 20 years ago.

Left Upper pic: Pat P.A. Marco (on mic) Don Berman (seated) of Don Berman Enterprises had a boom in 1967 at 'Man and His World' selling novelties. The Club House's largest Memorial plaque is Don Bermans.



BUFFALO BILL CODY (1846 – 1917)
 The Showmen's League of America was founded in 1913, by a group of outdoor showmen meeting at the Saratoga Hotel in Chicago. Buffalo Bill Cody, the Wild West performer, was elected the Club's first President. The Showmen's League of America is the oldest organization of its type in North America.

COME SEE WHAT'S NEW AT THE CLUB



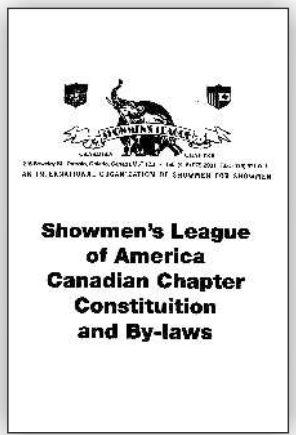
Len 'Pud' Lewis

“ This coming April 2012, I'll have been married for a total of 56 years....just a little bit longer than I've been a member of The Showmen's League. It's been great on all counts. ”

“Actually, I've been married 4 times, widowed 3 times. The first two died from eating poison mushrooms. The third died from a fractured skull. Look to the * bottom of this page to see how *that* happened....”

“Hope you have a good season. Drive safely - Make sure to get out to the club more often!”

CONSTI - TUITION - A Refresher on THE SHOWMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA * CANADIAN CHAPTER CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS - 1990 ed.



Article 1, Section 2 - The object and purpose of The Showmen's League of America Canadian Chapter is:

To promote the mutual welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to assist each member by honourable means; to promote friendship and good fellowship; to perpetuate itself as a social and fraternal organization; to provide for the government of The Showmen's League of America, Canadian Chapter, to bring together in harmonious, fraternal and social intercourse all persons who are connected with or have been connected with or are affiliated with the amusement profession. And to uplift the morale of amusements and to do unto others as we should have them do unto us.

PAST PRESIDENTS #1.....Patty Conklin * Past President 1936 - 1937

Joe Renker, born in 1892, and salesman of peanuts at 12 years old, went on to spend his teens working as a sideshow talker at **Coney Island**. In his 20's he joined the **Conklin Carnival** run by **James Wallace Conklin Sr.** Adopted by James Sr., he later changed his name to **J.W. 'Patty' Conklin**.

Patty Conklin, was elected **President of The Showmen's League of America** in the USA in 1936 then again in 1937. Up to that time, he was the only President to be elected more than once since the first President and initial Founder of the League, **Buffalo Bill Cody** in the USA in 1913 - 1914. *(Since then, 3 Canadian members have been elected more than once; Sam Arrigo - 1975 - 1976 - 1992, Don Berman 1971 - 1991, Billy Gordon - 1994 - 2009.)*

Patty Conklin hosted the first **Convention** of the League in 1935 where General Manager of the **CNE, Elwood Hughes** was invited to be the Toastmaster.

Soon after this convention **Conklin Shows** bid and won the midway at the **CNE** contract for 1937 where the show eventually topped all previous records in grosses and attendance. **Conklin Shows** went on to have a hand in the grounds for many years to come.



Patty Conklin 1892 - 1970

Original Painting at Club House: by Wilf Long

For more info on the History of Conklin Shows see here: www.conklinshows.com/history/index.html

DID YOU KNOW?FACT OR MYTH?.....Where the word MIDWAY comes from?

Back in the day when the Circus was the main attraction, the area 'mid-way' between the main gate and the circus would be filled with sideshow entertainment, games and rides.

This is one story.

* "...She wouldn't eat her mushrooms."

DID YOU KNOW? FACT OR MYTH?.....Where the word MIDWAY comes from?

A Wikipedia search has found: The Midway Plaisance, also known locally as the Midway, is a mile-long linear park on the South Side of the city of Chicago, Illinois between 59th and 60th Streets, joining Washington Park at its west end and Jackson Park at its east end. It divides the Hyde Park community area to the north from the Woodlawn community area to the south. It is located approximately 6 miles (9.7 km) south of the downtown "Loop" area, near Lake Michigan. It served as a center of amusements during the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893, lending the name "Midway" to areas at county and state fairs where sideshows are located. The Midway is located within the southern portion of the University of Chicago campus, with university and related buildings fronting it on both sides. The World's Columbian Exposition was the first world's fair with an area for amusements that was strictly separated from the exhibition halls. This area, developed by a young music promoter, Sol Bloom, concentrated on Midway Plaisance and introduced the term "midway" to American English to describe the area of a carnival or fair where sideshows are located.

WHAT IS A CARNIE AND WHAT DOES HE STAND FOR?

A few months after Expo '67 one supplier asked me a question: "Don, are you embarrassed when someone calls you a carnie now that you have made some big money? Well I hope he is here tonight because I did not answer him then. Now after a few years to think about it, I am ready to tell him.

A few years back when I was with the Bernard and Barry Shows, playing Rubarval, Quebec, we encountered a most fiery "Hey Rube". I was in the middle of six miners – all over 6 ft tall, and getting hit from all sides. Everyone on the show came to my aid, men in their 60's, sick men, strong men, boys in their teens. When they jumped the counters they didn't stop to ask what language they spoke or what race, creed or colour I was. They came because I was a carnie and they saved my life. The brotherhood shown there is far greater than shown in the rest of society today. Yes, our society can well learn the meaning of brotherhood from our people in the outdoor amusement business.

We in this amusement industry sometimes take a lot for granted and don't praise ourselves enough for what we really give to our society. We offer more peace of mind and supply a release valve for the public from their daily worldly pressures and tensions than all the psychiatrists put together. Did you ever really look at a child's face when he wins a prize or bites into a candy apple or look at his parents or grandparents faces when they watch him on the rides or ride with him. You don't see these faces at any other public function or on the street.

The real proof is at our turnstiles, ticket booths and cash registers. They show the public – from all walks of life – are coming back in larger numbers every year to our fairs, parks, beaches and carnivals to make our outdoor amusement industry one of Canada's leading industries.



We generate through our purchases of new rides, some of which run as high as a million dollars, through the merchandise sold and given away, through the trucks, generators and food. Millions upon millions of dollars are pumped into our economy and the jobs created. We handle over 20 million yearly in Canada alone. This business of ours is now being accepted the world over, even in Russia. They have installed American and European rides in Gorky Park, Moscow, and run them in the winter to sellout crowds.

So, if that's what a carnie is. . . I am damn proud to be known as one.

1972 President, DON BERMAN

JOIN



NOW!

HERE'S HOW

1. Find a governing member who works on your show and tell them you want to join. If none are on your show, just call the clubhouse.
2. Fill out a quick and easy form
3. Pay \$50.
(New members pay \$25.00 with \$25.00 annual dues.)

IT'S THAT EASY!!

Or Apply Online
<http://www.showmensleague.org/memberships>

VIDEO TO WATCH ON THE HISTORY OF THE SHOWMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA:
www.showmensleague.org/hall-of-honor

SHOWMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA

OFFICIAL CANADIAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SHOWMEN FOR SHOWMEN

MEETING DATES

Every first and third Monday
November thru March



Please come out and support your club for a general meeting or just if you're in town. The doors are open for you seven days a week from 10am to 7pm. Best to call first in case Satch is at the market etc.

REPORT FROM TORONTO

There will be no Banquet and Ball this year. However the Convention will go on as usual at the Royal York Hotel - February 16 - 18.

The Past Presidents Dinner will be held at the clubhouse this year on Wed. February 15. at 7:pm. It will cost only \$25. and the food is going to be great! **BE THERE!!**

Neil Wright gave an address at the Jan. 2, 2012 meeting and he recommended we continue to lease.

CEMETERY REPORT

Glendale Memorial Gardens, where the Showmen's Rest is located, now has a funeral home on site. If you require any further info, call Paul Bissonnette @ 905-665-0600



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Call Marge Shank @ 416-604-7089 with any news for the Sick & Welfare Committee

JOE SOCASH
DAN WAFFORD
MARK WAGNER

BUY A PIECE OF HISTORY WHILE THEY LAST!!

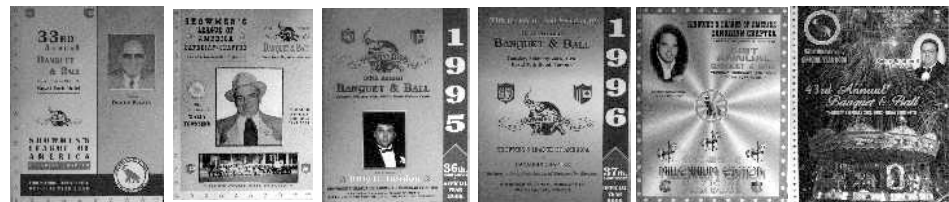
Get the Special 50th Anniversary Blue White and Gold Showmen's League of America Commemorative Pin



WAYS AND MEANS
Geordie Todd says to "Watch for a new round of FUNraising Showmen's League Golf Shirts and Caps", that are on order. Get your Show included!!
Pud raised \$300 from Campbell's Amusements pig roast and \$150. for the Club with Tip Boards for a total of \$450. Randy Homeniuk donated \$500. for the good of the Club. Thanks Pud, Randy and Campbell's Show!
What are YOU doing to help out the Club?

If you haven't paid up your dues or for your pages to last years Yearbook, **PLEASE DO IT NOW!**

THERE WILL BE NO 2012 YEARBOOK 'BACK ISSUE' YEARBOOKS AVAILABLE



They can still be purchased for only \$10. at the clubhouse.

If you would like one mailed to you, include another \$5. for postage

★★★★ BONUS ★★★★★

If you bring in 2 new members you get your own new membership card for the whole next year for half price. 5 new members get you in for one year Absolutely Free. 10 new members gets you 2 Free Years. 50 new members gets you an INTERNATIONAL HONORARY LIFETIME SHOWMEN'S LEAGUE of AMERICA MEMBERSHIP. Members, if you pay \$100., or 4 years dues fee in advance, you get the 5th year Free.

WHY THE CLUB NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The Showmen's League cannot do what it does best unless YOU kick in a little. **PLEASE HELP**