

CWM Audio 4-7

Derrick Rosaire Interview, April 18, 1973

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

Part 2

Richard Flint: How you can say it.

Derrick Yeah.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: How are you gonna finish that letter? Tape's on again.

Derrick Yeah. Yeah. I'm gonna say, "And we didn't do so bad, either".

Rosaire:

That sounds great, doesn't it?

Richard Flint: One thing I'm interested in getting are some to the stories when you get together with other show people, that you tell each other. Are there any particular types of stories you tell? The one that I've seen- other people I've spoken to, they always seem to tell how a show would last through the winter on no money. That seems to be sort of the typical type of story.

[00:00:30]

Derrick Well, there's a lot of funny stories.

Rosaire:

Pamela You do have a couple of good years, too.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Any you care to tell?

Pamela Where you give out money?

Rosaire:

[00:01:00]

Derrick One thing I can say, honestly, we have never been taken for a dollar since we've been in America, 11 years. And I mean that. Like I said, I hated it when I first came over. Everybody seemed to shout at me. They are louder over here than in England, you know? It's not so bad when you're in Europe because you can't understand them anyway.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Makes them shout louder, doesn't it?

[00:01:30]

Derrick Yeah, I notice this. Everybody shouted at me. I said, "Why can't they just come and say, 'Will you move your truck', instead of 'Hey, get that so and so thing out of the way.'" And that used to bug me. So that's the things that irritate me. But now I do the same. If they come and say, "You can't bring that thing there. Move it,". I say, "If you want it moving, go and move it. Don't bother me."

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: What about in terms of audiences? Is there a difference here during your performance?

Derrick Oh, yeah.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: How is it different?

[00:02:00]

Derrick

Rosaire:

Different all together. Every country you work in is different. And I mean a big difference. I don't do the same routine here as I do in England or France. I change everything, but what I do, what I have done, from the first time I left England and went to Europe, I get to another country and I put a piece in that suites that country. Like in Paris, I used to say- what's the name of the big statue there? The statue of [inaudible 00:02:35] in Paris. I used to say, "An imitation of [inaudible 00:02:43]." And I used to bow my head like this, just like the statue, and the horse used to bend one foot and look like this. They loved that, you know? In Spain, I put in the bull fight. If you look now, I've left a bit of the bull fight; I don't do the statue because nobody knows about that particular statue. Different little things crept in.

[00:02:30]

[00:03:00]

I don't know, a lot of people say the English audience is slow, but they're not. They're faster than the American audience in this respect. You know I take the harness of the horse, and I say, "You won't move," he says, "No," and I say, "Thank you," and he says, "Thank you." Now in England, I get a big laugh when I do that. Then again I say, "Thank you very much." The next time, I get half the laugh. I only do it twice. And over here, I do it three times. I say, "Thank you," and it gets a little laugh. Then I say, "Thank you very much," gets a bigger laugh. And the third time, I get the laugh. You see the difference?

[00:03:30]

[00:04:00]

Richard Flint: Right, right.

Derrick

Rosaire:

Now if you do it three times in England, you're over doing it. And yet it's funny because they like the acts to go quicker here. I used to do at least 14, 15 minutes in England. In Switzerland with Kanine, I used to do 18 minutes. Here I do nine. That's very awkward to know what to cut out in your act because I've had them, when I first came over, that say, "Your act's a bit long," I say, "Alright, what do you want to cut out?" "I don't know, just shorten it up." Well, you can't do that because the things I do, if you quicken it up, you lose your timing, so I've just cut a bunch of tricks out. I cut out the hand-leg walk. I used to do this thing where, I call the minuet, twist around and Spanish trot I cut out. What else? Several little things. And what I do, I just take my time with what I'm doing, and it goes over better.

[00:04:30]

[00:05:00]

But you don't work the same in a matinee, either, the way you do at night.

Richard Flint: In this country or over there?

[00:05:30]

Derrick
Rosaire: Anywhere. It's a different audience. You've got the kids, you need some adults for that kind of an act. I've got another horse, the understudy for this one, and I tell you, he's just great. But he's a different character all together, than this one. He's fast and rough. I'm gonna use him in the afternoon shows because that's what the kids like. But nighttime, with more finesse, this horse has got finesse. He just does it so deliberate, and so easy. And the other guy wants to jump on me all the time. I have to move.

[00:06:00]

Richard Flint: When did you start training animals?

Derrick: When I was five.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: What animals do you like to train?

Derrick: Horses. Elephants.

Rosaire:

[00:06:30]

Richard Flint: What's the difference in working with one animal and the other?

Derrick: Basically, the principle is the same. It depends on the character of the animals. I like to pick an animal that I like. I like his ways and that. If he like doing it, I like that kind of animal. You can have some animals, they don't like to do it, just like people.

[00:07:00]

Richard Flint: How soon can you sense that?

Derrick: Before I buy them, usually. I just play around with them a while and look at them and ask a few questions.

Richard Flint: Just the same way you train your person, you can tell-

Derrick: I'm pretty lucky, though. I've only ever had one that never made out. Second day I had it, I came and I told my wife, " Not gonna do it, never gonna make it." It did all the tricks, but it had about as much personality as an old boot.

[00:07:30]

Richard Flint: Any animals you don't like to work with?

Derrick: Ponies. They're arrogant. They just try to outwit you all the time. They don't go along with it. You get the exception. Mostly, you get a dozen ponies, I bet you seven of them are gonna try and make a fool out of you.

[00:08:00]

Richard Flint: I was gonna ask you earlier, is there any superstition on the circus that you've ever seen?

Derrick: All of them.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: What are some of them?

Derrick Can't wear anything green. There's lots of different ones. Well, we don't like to
Rosaire: mention rats. We refer to them as "long tails". We don't like to use the word.

[00:08:30]

Richard Flint: Are these to the circus?

Derrick I think mostly, yes. Put an umbrella up in the big top, or if there's anyone sitting in the
Rosaire: audience in England knitting. Somebody's gonna get hurt for sure. Everybody knows
that.

Richard Flint: You believe that?

Derrick No. I suppose if you're watching a knit and not watching what you're doing, you'll
Rosaire: probably get hurt. But I've seen my sisters go around and say, "Excuse me lady, it's
[00:09:00] absolutely against the law to knit during the performance. Would you please put your
knit away?"

Richard Flint: What about walking across the ring?

Derrick That's strictly bad manners. They say to go across the ring before the show starts,
Rosaire: always with bad luck. But to go in the ring at all without taking your hat off like a
civilian, [inaudible 00:09:31]. If anybody walked across our ring with a hat on, they
[00:09:30] was fired. They'd be told one time if they did it again. [inaudible 00:09:41] you can't
whistle. If you whistle in that building-

Richard Flint: In the building, not just the ring?

Derrick I know, I got one of those chews on my nerves. I was whistling, and I heard all the
Rosaire: building, "Oh, who's whistling?" And I stopped. And a couple minutes later I forgot,
[00:10:00] and I started again. And I heard him fling his hat on the ground, he was gonna fire
everybody. Somebody's doing it on purpose. It's me. No, I didn't know.

Richard Flint: What about sitting on the rim?

Derrick I haven't heard that one.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Any other bad luck?

[00:10:30]

Derrick In the old days, you couldn't truss on the steps. If anybody came in and you was doing
Rosaire: that, boy you better stay clear.

Richard Flint: Can you do anything for good luck?

Derrick They say dirty words to you in France. Good luck. They never say good luck. They say,
Rosaire: "Merde." Find out what that means. That's about the most used word in America.
[00:11:00] Right? Every time they do anything wrong.

Richard Flint: Your son just said, "Break a leg." That's in theater, too.

Derrick I don't believe it all.

Rosaire:

Pamela You used to say, "Knock 'em dead."

Rosaire:

Derrick Knock 'em dead?

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: That's more of an expression.

[00:11:30]

Derrick I don't particularly believe in any of those things. I just don't take any chances. I know

Rosaire: they say don't walk under the ladder. Well that's obvious. They guy's up there painting. You're gonna get at least splashed.

Richard Flint: Of course that's not just limited to the circus, either.

Pamela Tie my shoe, please.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Are there any good stories that your dad likes to tell on show?

[00:12:00]

Pamela Yeah, I want him to tell how he fixed my shoe. Yeah tell him how you found Tony.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Okay.

Derrick That's not funny. True. Well the old Tony I had was getting old.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Where was this? In this country or-

Derrick No, it was in Spain, and we had a contract to go from Spain to France for the Radio

Rosaire: Circus. I didn't feel like I wanted to go out of Spain, I wanted to go in the south of Spain. Because it's a known fact that the horses, all the good horses, are down in the south. And I was looking for one. At the end of the season we went from the Circus

[00:12:30]

[00:13:00] Americano, we went to Circus Price in Madrid. While we were there, Circus Price said to me- what was his name?

Pamela [inaudible 00:13:20]

Rosaire:

Derrick He said, "Would you like to go on our circus next year down in the south?" I said, "I would love to, but the only thing is I have a contract to go with Radio Circus in Paris, in France." So he said, "If anything happen, where you didn't go with that show, would you go with me?" I said, "I certainly would, provided you paid me the same money as I get in France. I'd be delighted." Well I tell you if you got the same money in Spain as you got in France, in those days, you was getting money. So he said, "Yes, that's alright. Would you sign a contract to that effect?" I said, "Yes." And I did. I

[00:13:30]

[00:14:00] signed the contract with him. It said if I didn't go with the Radio Circus, I was obligated to go to it with him.

[00:14:30] Before I left Spain, I don't say it was a dream. It was like a thing. I was laying there in bed, I wasn't asleep. And I saw this horse fair. I saw this little palomino horse run by the side of the window. I told Betty about it. I said, "Betty, if we went to the south of Spain, we'd find a horse because I saw it right there go by the window". Anyway, we drove all the way to Paris, and when we got there, they said, "Would you do us a favor? Would you put your contract back a year?" Is this amazing? I said, "I certainly will". So we go back to Spain. The clown walked in there, Spanish clown, he'd learned to speak quite good English because he practically lived with us. Was that Panito, Betty? Juanito. Panito, Juanito, and Popete. What was the other one? Popeti, Poteti?

Betty Pepe, Juanito, Pepeti.

Rosaire:

Derrick Pepe, Juanito...

Rosaire:

Betty Pepeti.

Rosaire:

[00:16:00]

Derrick Which was the one that Will is? Juanito, wasn't it?

Rosaire:

Betty No, Pepe.

Rosaire:

Derrick Well that was Pepe. I never used to call him Pepe. I never used to call him anything

Rosaire: when I come to think of it. Nice guy, anyway.

[00:16:30] And he came in and he says, "In the next town, you'll find your horse." Great guy. He said, "You'll find any kind of horse you want. There'll be over 3000 horses at this sale." Now when we pull into the place and we had the thing, something like we've got here, big diesel, I think it was diesel truck made into a house car like this. And as we pulled into that place, I said, "Oh, look," I thought, "I've been here before." You've had this happen, hadn't you? So, the clown come in, and he says, "Hey, have you been to the sale?" And I said, "No," and he said, "Straight up that road." We didn't have a car or anything. "How far?" "Oh, little way."

[00:17:00]

[00:17:30] Little way was about a mile and a half. And a mile and a half in Spain is ten miles. Just the end part. Well we walked up there, and there was 3000 horses, at least. We didn't see a palomino. Not that we liked, there was a lot of palominos, but it was gold colored and not very good. And we were actually on our way home, and Pamela was quite small then. She said, "Dad, there's a palomino." I look around, I didn't see any palomino. There was a corral with about 40 horses. They wasn't corralled, the rest of them, they was all loose. But this was this sort of high class guy at the fair. He had them in a corral. I said, "I'll go back there," I said, "but I'm so tired and so thirsty," that you can't drink water out there. I said, "If I get back there and there's not a palomino, Pam, I'm gonna be mad with you." She said, "You won't be mad. There's one there."

[00:18:00]

[00:18:30] Just as we got back towards them, these horses opened, and this Tony here was just a colt, like just a year. He just shone like gold. He shines now, and he still hasn't got his

full summer coat on. If you can imagine, he just looks beautiful. I said, "That's it." I went and talked to the man. Right away somebody came up and said, "Oh that's the man with a horse at the circus." So I walked away right away. I thought, "Now the price is gonna go up".

[00:19:00] So I sent one of the acrobats that spoke really good Spanish, and he bought the horse. I said, "Go down there and buy that horse". He said, "How much?" "I don't care. However much it is, just buy it." He came back, I thought, "He missed it. He didn't have it." He said, "I've bought the horse," he said, "but we couldn't catch it." Because [00:19:30] he's an acrobat, he was not an animal one. He said, " But the man's gonna come tonight past here. When he gets into in his own place, he'll attach it. We can go and get it."

[00:20:00] And I was sitting like I might be, and my wife was looking through the window. I hadn't even told her we'd bought the horse. All of a sudden, the nighttime, my wife said, " There's the horse you're looking for." And I looked through the window and I said, "I bought it already." And that was just like I saw it in that dream. And then I remembered. I said, "This place was familiar when I came here." That's it, right there. And he was going like this, and he was young. We went and picked that thing up. I had him working before he was two year old.

[00:20:30]
Richard Flint: Did you train him on the road?

Derrick
Rosaire: Yeah, everywhere. Anywhere I was. He only worked one show in Spain. Just the other horse got sick, and we just introduced him and took the learner in, give him a little demonstration of horse training in about two minutes. But he had personality then. He came out like this, and he liked it. Then I really finished his out with Kanine in [00:21:00] Switzerland. I worked him about the last two months of the season over there.

Richard Flint: What year did you first use him?

Derrick What year was Willis Kanine, Betty?

Rosaire:

Betty [inaudible 00:21:23]

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: How long can you work them?

[00:21:30]

Derrick Well, the way we take care of them, we don't let them knock themselves about. My
Rosaire: last one, I didn't retire until he was about 26 I suppose.

Richard Flint: So you can work them 24 years.

Derrick Oh easy.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: [inaudible 00:21:47]

Derrick
Rosaire:
[00:22:00] Well he was 26 when I retired him because he was a tear away, I called it. He used to bang his feet on the ground. Boom, boom, boom. He just wore himself out. He do it after the act. He'd all stiffen up, and he'd go walking. And I didn't like to work him. Made me feel bad to work him. But he was like a ball of fire in there. Soon as he'd come out and he'd grunt, his weight wasn't too good either. He was just worn out. And we left him home, had him home for four or five years 'fore he died.

[00:22:30] This horse here, he's different. He doesn't knock himself around. He just looks like a three-year-old now.

Richard Flint: So he shouldn't mind a little. Speaking of horses, were there ever any gypsies that had any circus [inaudible 00:22:42].

Derrick
Rosaire:
[00:23:00] Not in England. No, not that I know of in Ireland. The ones I know that were gypsies was in France. [inaudible 00:22:55]. They're gypsies. Rich gypsies. You know Joe's at [inaudible 00:23:02], when you work at the circus, there's nowhere to park. You have to go and park in the marketplaces. And you're only allowed there so long, and then they tell you to move, unless you talk nice to the cops. You go from one marketplace to another. And the gypsies used to hang out on there, too. We got very friendly with a lot of the gypsies over there. And I'll tell you, a lot of wonderful people. You know when you say 'gypsies', you don't say 'tinker'. They've got different names in different countries.

[00:23:30] I've been interested in this because a friend of ours once wrote a book on gypsies.

Richard Flint: Who was that?

Derrick
Rosaire:
Richard Flint: Rupert Crosscut
Oh, yeah, I've got a couple of books. I've got some pictures of [inaudible 00:23:51]

Betty
Rosaire:
[00:24:00] That's Dennis. That's his brother, Dennis.

Derrick
Rosaire:
[00:24:30] He used to talk about gypsies. And I used to say, "Oh, you don't know what you're talking about. I know more about gypsies than you do because when I was a kid and I had a pony, if there was a gypsy in town, he found me." And I used to play with the gypsy kids. I tell you, I've seen [inaudible 00:24:21] drive up in his Cadillac and sit down at the gypsy camp and eat barbecue with them. He's enjoy it. He loved it. He was a real gypsy. I don't know if he's still alive or not. I think he is. Even on his balcony, in the middle of Paris, he was the only one I knew in Paris that I know of, Betty, isn't he. Europe. And he owns Cirque Madrano, Cirque de [inaudible 00:24:53].

Richard Flint: Cirque Madonna.

Derrick
Rosaire:
[00:25:00] They say he owns half of Paris. I think that's a slight exaggeration.

Betty He owns a lot of property ground [inaudible 00:25:05]
 Rosaire:
 Derrick: But he's not ashamed. He says, "I'm a gypsy, and I'm a good gypsy." We used to go up
 Rosaire: to his flat and [inaudible 00:25:17]

Richard Flint: When you're traveling around England, did anyone ever accuse you of being gypsies or something?

[00:25:30]
 Derrick: Never. The only ones I knew that ever got accused was two tight ladies. They had a
 Rosaire: special wagon made, built, they called them wagons in those days. And they had this nice two-horse team, and they had this thing built of English mahogany with very big windows in it. The idea was good. They had the thing to pull out the side, the sunshade. How do you call them? A canopy? They was going along the road, and they
 [00:26:00] pulled into a place and stopped. And the guy got police, and was they was gonna arrest them. Tight ladies.

Richard Flint: Is there any difference between a gypsy wagon and a circus wagon, caravan?

Derrick: Oh yeah. The gypsy wagon had two styles. They had what they call a bow top that
 Rosaire: was just a round thing, something like a covered wagon. Then they had the old-
 [00:26:30] fashioned gypsy wagon. It was beautiful, art work on them. There was a mint right now, I had a few.

Richard Flint: So there was the bow type, and what was the other?

Derrick: The Molly croft, right. They called them the Molly croft, and they had all cab work in
 Rosaire: the front.

Betty: Glass windows.
 Rosaire:
 Derrick: Glass, oh.
 Rosaire:
 [00:27:00]
 Richard Flint: But didn't the bow type ones have-

Derrick: No, nothing, they was the poor ones. They was more like what they call in England,
 Rosaire: the [inaudible 00:27:05]. You say tinkers over here? That type. They're not the true thing there. They call them edge crawlers and all sorts of things. They're true gypsies. They're proud of it. I tell you, there was one, I suppose you call them a tribe, in Paris, I
 [00:27:30] saw this happen one day. I see one lot of gypsies was on one side, and the other on the other side. And one of the guys came over, and he'd had a couple of drinks. And he picked on one of these other gypsies, and he hauled off and hit him. Then, I saw this with my own eyes, I'll never believe it, he just turned the other cheek and let him hit him again. And he just let him hit him as many times as he liked. And he eventually fouled out. I mean he was big enough to pick the man up and bounce him., and he never retaliated.
 [00:28:00]

[00:28:30] The other guy that was there was a relation to the [inaudible 00:28:26] was with me. And he went up, and he stopped the other guys. "Cut it out or I'm gonna give it to you right now." He stopped the argument. And he told me, he said, "You know, that's a terrible thing." He said, "They're wonderful people." He said, "They've got a way of life all of their own," he said, "They play music for money, but they only want enough money to last that day. They don't believe in stealing, no backtalk. Those people are just fantastic." He says, "That idiot has to go over there and pick on them." He said, "When he's sober, I'm gonna make him go over there and apologize to him. Otherwise, I'm gonna beat him." He can do it, this boy.

Richard Flint: Speaking of the caravan wagons, what were the caravan wagons on the road there circus like? If you grew up there? How big were they?

[00:29:30]
Derrick
Rosaire: Oh, they were various sizes. My father, in the old days, used to build his own. They had a [inaudible 00:29:45]. He even put rubber tires on there and wheels, I can remember. It used to be nice to drive it on the road, but it used to look awful ugly to me.

[00:30:00] I was telling you about this family or this tribe, a few nights later he call me, this Jave Lamber was his name.

Richard Flint: This was the Gypsy?

Derrick
Rosaire: Yeah, he was the land trainer, also. [inaudible 00:30:14] family. He said, "Would you like to come somewhere with me?" I said, "I would." And he took me over to one of these, I think it was an ordinary house trailer, and it was a bunch of guys playing music. They had cellos, bass, several violins. A lot of instruments. They was playing, [00:30:30] and they asked me what kind of music, and I said, "Oh, a little classical music, they play classical. They play jazz." It doesn't matter what you ask them, they play it. No music, nothing. But beautiful.

[00:31:00] And they played on for about an hour, an hour and a half. It was getting late. And all of a sudden, they stop. And the old gentlemen that was leading just took his hat off, and they all went into prayer. To me it was unexpected. I really felt out of place. I didn't know what to do, so I just remained still. I mean, you never think about people like this, do you? When people talk about gypsies.

Richard Flint: It's always sort of looked down upon.

[00:31:30]
Derrick
Rosaire: You know what this is, the movies. I hate the circus movies over here, too. Everybody just kills somebody and got out of jail.

Betty
Rosaire: With the trapeze or the lion trainer. Flying trapeze.

Derrick
Rosaire: I've seen some really bad ones.

Richard Flint: You started to say something earlier about Mills. When you were talking about people coming to this type, you mean, the Mills brothers in this country?

Derrick No, Burton Mills.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Remember what it was?

[00:32:00]

Derrick No, I forget.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: So flash cameras, are they detrimental to your acts? Are they hazardous to your acts?

Derrick Definitely.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: During any of the animal acts, there will be no flash?

Derrick Just without permission, that's the thing. Press, or anything like that, is good for the show. But you get some gink will come in there like the last place. I could imagine coming and taking a picture of the fun, but he took a picture of the back of the bears. And it went boom, and the bear jumped 'round. And he was in the circle. When I went to get on his back, this is the first show I've been able to get on his back since.

[00:32:30]

Speaker 5: So unauthorized use of photograph or recording during animal performances is prohibited? Unauthorized use. If it's the press, they're gonna ask for authorization.

[00:33:00]

Derrick Then we know where they are. If they come to me and say, "I want to take a picture," Rosaire: I say, "Well, I'll show you where to stand." And then they get the right angle. Like you say, that gink was a bad...

Speaker 5: All right, I'll see you later for that beer, don't forget.

Derrick Right-o. Might even give you a sandwich if you're nice.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Are there any special terms or language that are used?

Derrick What?

Rosaire:

[00:33:30]

Richard Flint: Any special language or terms used in British shows that you don't use here?

Derrick Yes they have a kind of a mixture of different languages, as far as I can make out.

Rosaire: Slang.

Richard Flint: Can you remember any of it?

Derrick Oh, yeah.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Alright give me some examples, if you would.

Derrick Well, you know to just come up with it like that-

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: 'Cause you know the locks, the toe birds.

[00:34:00]

Derrick Yeah the toe bird. Chavies are boys, kids.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: That work for the show or that come to the show?

Derrick [inaudible 00:34:22]

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: I've got a couple of the British circles books that have that language.

Betty No, we don't use that.

Rosaire:

[00:34:30]

Derrick They do use it a lot in England, I don't know whether they do over here. Do they use

Rosaire: it?

Betty I don't-

Rosaire:

Derrick I don't think they do.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: It's a different language here. [inaudible 00:34:35]

Derrick He died, you know?

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: No, I didn't.

Derrick Yeah, he died

Rosaire:

Betty You've got back you say?

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Yes, I did.

Betty Well, that's about us.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: If you wanna know, I just got it about a month ago.

Betty I'm the one that gave him that makeup.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: I'll have to read it. You know Billy Baker.

[00:35:00]

Derrick That's her cousin. Betty's cousin. You look at Betty, and next time you look at Billy-

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: [crosstalk 00:35:08] This is fascinating because Ed Wasiga did a book about-

Betty Ed Wasiga traveled with us for a long time. He was knighted eventually, you know?
Rosaire: [inaudible 00:35:28]

[00:35:30]

Derrick What time is the show, by the way, Derreck?

Rosaire:

Derek: Seven o'clock. Yeah, seven. It's about [inaudible 00:35:39].

Richard Flint: I was about to say I just got this, maybe you knew him, Joe [inaudible 00:35:47]. He lived in the Netherlands. He's a press agent. Started out with shows and then went to theater. [inaudible 00:36:04].

[00:36:00]

Derrick Zena?

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Lena.

Derrick Well, let me see.

Rosaire:

Zena! He's got the name wrong, the dummy.

Richard Flint: That's your sister?

Derrick Yeah, that's Zena. Yeah, right around there.

Rosaire:

Betty Zed-E-N-A. Zena.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: There's one that I have with [inaudible 00:36:19], outside of a living wagon.

Betty That would be Obrey, wouldn't it?

Rosaire:

Derrick Oh, my father.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Your father?

Derrick [crosstalk 00:36:19]

Rosaire:

Betty Fred Rose. Yeah, with the goose.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Yeah, yeah.

[00:36:30]

Betty I've got one at home, yeah. The goose used to follow, and we could always tell what

Rosaire: he was when we were looking for him. Go down the street, and you'd see the goose sitting outside the pub.

Richard Flint: With Tony, the wonder horse, wow.

Derrick Would you look at that?

Rosaire:

Betty That's the old Tony, that's not-

Rosaire:

[00:37:00]

Derrick

Rosaire:

You see that? I never read one book about the show. They just write something, and I see it. And I think, "That's not true," and I quit. I don't wanna read anymore. They put some little bit in to make it look.

Richard Flint: Colorful.

Derrick

Rosaire:

[00:37:30]

I don't like that. There's no need to. I tell you, I'm gonna write a book one of these days. I'm gonna write a book. I'm gonna get somebody to write it. I haven't got the ability to write one.

Richard Flint:

Well I'll tell you, these tapes, I've now done like 45 show people, a couple of them, sometime, I'd like to try and do- well Billy Baker, for example. He's marvelous. I have a bunch of the old-

Derrick

Rosaire:

Richard Flint:

[00:38:00]

He can tell you some Irish stories.

Oh, I got a bunch of the old Brooklyn Mills Olympia invitations, engraved ones they sent out to royalty. I got them [inaudible 00:37:54]. So I brought them, these go right back to the beginning, I brought them to him. He was going through them.

Betty

Rosaire:

Derrick

Rosaire:

Richard Flint:

Billy Baker, Billy Baker's father-

He's good fun, isn't he?

He is.

Betty

Rosaire:

Billy Baker's father, Tom Baker, that was my mother's brother. Was the first one to get into [inaudible 00:38:13] first book. [inaudible 00:38:14]

Richard Flint:

Right, yeah, for one year.

Betty

Rosaire:

[00:38:30]

Derrick

Rosaire:

I'm gonna do one like we talk. Don't get all glamorized. Just as it is, but always finish, and see the funny side of it. You know I think that's a funny bit. You know that killed me. We drove thousands of miles, and when we got there, there was no show.

Betty

Rosaire:

That is true.

Derrick That happened not long ago. They canceled the show.

Rosaire:

[00:39:00]

Betty All the way from New York. We drove all the way down to Mobile, Alabama.

Rosaire:

Derrick Nobody told us.

Rosaire:

Betty There was no show.

Rosaire:

Derrick I got out, I went. Then I thought, "Well, it's a beautiful day. We're all healthy. Get the

Rosaire: beer out. Do a walk around." And I started to laugh. Then I got a little drunk.

[00:39:30]

Richard Flint: Where was your next stand?

Betty Well we went to Florida, but not for a couple of weeks. We stayed there for a couple
Rosaire: of weeks doing nothing. We ended up going home. Oh no, then we went back to New
York.

Derrick Here's a funny bit, like I started to tell you about, and we never got took for a dollar in
Rosaire: America. Nothing. I'm not saying this because you're American because I'll tell you the
[00:40:00] things I don't like if you ask me. You've got some real [crosstalk 00:40:04] over here.
You know what I hate over here? The way that all the lawyers and all the insurance
men to me are crooked.

Richard Flint: Yeah.

Derrick You should not be able to sign somebody without putting out some money. The
Rosaire: moment this lawyer comes up and says, "Oh, you get on this 1000 dollar, I get 35% of
this," to me that's crooked. It's wrong. It shouldn't be allowed. And then this
[00:40:30] insurance business.

Richard Flint: You probably get a lot with the animals.

Derrick I learned the pattern now, I learned it. And my Ford truck, full- this is not on is it?

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Yeah.

Derrick Oh, you shouldn't be getting that.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: These tapes are confidential. I don't-

[00:41:00]

Derrick I had my Ford truck fully covered. The Ford car was for the other guy. We call it third
Rosaire: party. I have an accident with my truck, all of a sudden, my truck's not fully covered,
but my Ford car is. And when I started to get a little off about it, I said, "Come on.
What's going on here?" He said, "Well, you better not say anything about this because
according to the officer, the cop that was there, he said it was your fault as much as

[00:41:30] the other guy. And if you start going into it, it could cost you some money." And I fell for that guy, but since I thought, "Well, it cost me about 1800 dollars to put my truck right from the unfortunate." Knew where he lived, so he turned in without giving me any signals. Do you notice with people when they know where they live, they think you know, too, so they turn in. That's what happened.

[00:42:00] But this funny bit I was gonna tell you, I keep going off one thing onto another. That's the way I talk, anyway. That's the way my book's gonna be. They gotta refer back here and there if you wanna know what it's all about.

Richard Flint: That's what an author does. What the editor does is bring it all together.

[00:42:30]

Derrick
Rosaire: Canada we was stuck one time. It was very funny because in Ottawa, for the sport's show, the building manager came up to me and said, "How do you get paid on these jobs?" He said, "Do you get paid on a salary or do you on a percentage or what?" I always think it's a little personal to ask questions like that. So I look at this man, and I said, I was gonna look in his face and say, "That's a think we don't talk about". But I looked in his face, and I thought, "He's got a nice face. I won't say anything out of place." I said, "Well, I'll tell you, sir. I get paid weekly. Very weekly." He said, "Oh, you do? You get paid by the week?" I said, "Yeah, what makes you ask a question like that?"

[00:43:00] He said, "Well, Ill tell you. The man that's running this show didn't pay off last year, and I'm afraid it might happen to you. And I've gotten to like your family, and I would hate to see it happen to you." He said, "Now you got a telegram today." I did. He said, "Why don't you go to the office and say, 'I've just got a telegram, and I've gotta send some money right away,' And at least collect half of the money." Okay, I have to think about that. Well, I'm a bit soft like that. I thought, "Well, if I go and do that, what's gonna happen to the rest of the people?" There was a couple of circus people that I knew very well. I thought, "No, I'll go, and I'll tip them off."

[00:44:00] So I went to our guy that was, he was come there for the show, Ralph Quindland, do you know him? He has Zippy the chimp?

Richard Flint: Uh, no.

Derrick
Rosaire: What a nice guy. And I told him about it, anyway. And he said, "Well, we'll just go up and ask for some money. That's all." So boom, everybody goes up to the office, and they give you check. So we go cash our checks in the morning. We'll get into town about nine o'clock and cash the checks. I didn't even go to the bank. I tell you. I thought, "Well, what he just said, forget it." But if they get theirs, then I'll go. So they all come back, no money.

[00:45:00] So, we gotta do this right. Get a lawyer. We gotta lean on the guy. So now the thing is, we're gonna go after every show, the money that's been took in already is not around. It's gone. So we gotta go in after every show, and each one take a percentage of our salary. Got the idea? So we finished that show that night, and I was last act

[00:46:00] with Tony. So I took him, and tied him up in a little place. I go walking towards the office, everybody else is gone. When I get there, there's panic.

[00:46:30] This is what happened. They're all sitting around the table, the act, the crooked manager, the boss, the two log-rollers with muscles in their eyebrows. Big panic. What happened? Well, they've got the money on the table right there, and they're saying this, "One, two. One, two. One, two." And this guy walk in and just took the table cloth and scooped the four corners, put it over his shoulders and went out.

[00:47:00] I said, "Where were you?" The muscle guys, one was sitting there, and the other was standing by the door. I said, "Two big guys like you, you couldn't get a hold of him and stop him?" Took us by surprise. However, the cops knew who he was. He was the man that run the bar, and he owed in money from last year. So he was gonna grab. The only thing is, we had to lean on him. We had first in. So we got a little money back.

Betty We got a little, but we didn't get much.

Rosaire:

Derrick That's the only time we've ever been took. That was in Canada.

Rosaire:

Richard Flint: Where?

[00:47:30]

Derrick In Canada. In Ottawa.

Rosaire:

Betty In Ottawa.

Rosaire:

Derrick But we've been took in Ireland. We been took in England. We never got took in

Rosaire: Europe though, did we, Betty?

Betty No.

Rosaire:

Derrick We used to travel about, we had a bunch of Pekingese dogs, I mean a bunch. It was

Rosaire: 20 or better. And we used to put a run out there and leave them outside. We only

ever lost two. We lost one in Spain. We lost one in France. We got the one back in

[00:48:00] France. Isn't that amazing? In England, we used to have them in a lion's cage. You can

put your hand through the bars, and it was a great joke. That was one of the biggest

attractions. This great big 20 foot lion cage with all partitions out and about 30

Pekingese in there. And the people would go crazy, put their hands through and

[00:48:30] stroke them. And everybody used to say, "Aren't you afraid of them stealing them?"

"No, never."

But Switzerland's like that too. In the German part of Switzerland, they say you can leave your wallet on the sidewalk. If your name's in it, you'll get it back, the money, too.

Betty [inaudible 00:49:04]

Rosaire: