## THE REAL WOMAN OF THE CIRCUS

## BY JOSIE DEMOTT SOMERSAULT EQUESTRIENNE

WITH BARNUM AND BAILEY



SABBLLE BUTLER WHO TURNS A SOMERSAULT IN AN AUTOMOBILE WEARING A 3000 FRANC COSTUME



JOSIE DEMOTT WHO TURNS SOMERSAULTS ON A HORSE



KITTIE FLORENZ, OF THE FLORENZ COMPANY OF ACROBATS WITH BARNUM PATEY

THE GRUNATHO ACROBATS ILLUSTRATE THE POSSIBILITY OF UP-TO-DATE COSTUMING IN THE CIRCUS

just the same as the rest of the world. ways behind the scenes. To her it is a very practical thing-a means of making a living-and usually a very good one.

I do not mean by this that the circus woman is devoid of ambition or does not find pleasure in the applause of the public. Without the appreciation which the audience often displays towards the artist the work would be humdrum and disappointing. Like her sisters on the stage, applause is very sweet to the circus woman, and if her head is sometimes turned a little by the "hands" she receives from the seats, it is no more

man is a hard one." This is an erroneen suddenly transplanted from a life conditions of wear and weather, and, Moors the

which at home seemed such an abso- secure their rest en route. lute necessity, morning and night,

ter.

whose stage work has made her a have one practical walking-hat for every-day use, including Sunday. Interest, I believe, a broadcast imstead of trying to keep pace with the lifts of the circus was letter made and street wear, she would principal riding and symnastic work of the circus have, as a rule, been trained in the sawdust ring from childpression that the "life of the circus wo- latest mode and endeavoring to preserve her former method of having a The father of the Huettermann Sis-"change" in the way of a gown for ters, menage riders, is a circus manthere can be but very few luxuries "on the road," but the circus woman is not looking for luxuries. She is too practical for that. I can imagine the state of mind of a young woman who has suddenly transplanted from a life "change" in the way of a gown for a gown for every day in the week, she would discover that a couple of sensibly-made cover that a couple of sensibly-made cover that a couple of sensibly-made riding is punctuated by frequent somer-tailor dresses would be neat, rapidly call purposes, would be neat, rapidly a famous name in circus history; the conditions of wear and weather, and, learn that the circus man-ager, and equestrian teacher at Prague, and some process and couple of sensibly-made cover that a couple of sensibly-made

not the least important, would take up | mous the world over for its horsemanvery little room on those few and preclous hooks. The absence of the porcelain bath-tub would be compensated for by the ingenious portable rubber-tub, ind in a few days she would discover Need I say that circus women are of comparative ease into the rush, that, notwithstanding the seeming dis-Intensely human. They have their hurry and limitations of the circus. Incomforts of life with a circus, the wointensely numan. They have then stead of her cosy bedroom, she would men, by the practice of a little innkes and dishkes, loves and entities, find herself compelled to sleep in the genuity and adaptability, were enabled pleasures and pains, joys and jealousies instead of a commodious wardrobe for and did. Life in a sleeping-car is a ne-If there is any glamour about the cir-cus it is not apparent to the woman cus it is not apparent to the woman a few rather unaccommodating and jumps from city to city aer all made at who is, by virtue of her profession, al-

As a matter of fact, there are very would be absent, and she would grieve few women of the circus who have not at the simplicity of the arrangements literally been born into it—and the exfor her ablutions. At first she would ceptions to this rule usually marry inbe astonished, if not horrified. The to it. Those who get into it otherwise sleeping-cars would appear to her to are women whose performances debe crowded and stuffy. How to dispose mand nerve and daring without long of her hats and clothing would bee a years of practice. For instance Mile study of the most perplexing charac- Octavie La Tour, the young French "I never can exist under such woman whose nerve-racking feat of turning a somersault in an automobile learn to adapt herself to the new conditions. Instead of having two or three hers for a state of the state of the state of the state of two or three hers for a state of the s three hats for street wear, she would perience. But the women who do the

Signor Antoni sent his daughter to a clety on earth. They are not often in money are paid for circus costumes. convent and gave her a thorough edu- evidence to the public until they are Fashion in the circus, I must admit, cation before she became a circus wo- old enough to take the first steps in is not altogether the result of public grist-Silzon Troupe of aerialists are ents but to the people behind the scenes lation in dress such as appears in the eight months in the year. Harmony

history of the circus, both in America tuted "auntie" in the dressing tent. the troupe, had the sawdust ring for during which she is in the ring or per-

husband There is little or no social life for the

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is with the white tents. In the winter there are engagements in vaudeville or The young women of the Sie- following the profession of their par- demand. The feminine spirit of emumany names famous in the unwritten and possession of every self-consti-

old circus family; so does La Belle Carmen, the serial wire performer. This list might be extended indefinitely, and would simply be cumulative evidence of the fact that circus women are not such as a matter of whim, but are not such as a matter of whim, but because birth and training have weddened them to the circus life.

There is no other branch of the mand training have weddened to be plain, thrifty and saving, and a good circus wife is apt to be the best good circus wife is ap

ing skirts, but it would not surprise me to see, eventually, women taking ing library. The books are mostly aerial flights, from one swinging trapaper bound novels and after an original deposit is paid down to cover the an American family of acrobats whose actual value of the publication, a fee female members first appeared in long skirts. Prior to that time such a ure of reading each book. thing as a woman throwing a somer- proved a profitable venture for the feat. When at last a clever girl from ing to those who do not understand Germany, a daughter of the famous circus women, such novels as "Sapold showman Rentz, turned a somer-pho," and the erotic literature of Zola amusement profession in which the sault, and actually did it on the back are tabooed by common consent. family idea prevails to so great an extent as in the circus. You will scarce- tonished. A little later an American young girls, who, while guarded by ly ever find a young woman in the circus unless she is accompanied by a couple of young women who executed some extent on their own resources for brother, an older sister, one or both single somersaults on the ground and entertainment. This has instigated parents, or in many instances by her double ones from shoulder to shoulder the formation of little clubs for muskirts, it was thought that the limit of cessful of these clubs with the Barnur arenic accomplishment had been over- & Bailey show is the "Young Wo eircus woman outside of her own im-medlate circle. All summer long she that excited the circus world-it was week instead of going to the dining the fact that they did their work in tent for supper, they each contribute with the European one-ring permanent skirts instead of in the conventional a small amount and have tea and circuses. From childhood she is more circuses. From childhood she is more tights. These girls soon had imitators. a small amount and have tea and tights. These girls soon had imitators. wafers in the pad tent. Occasionally,

ship they are married, it will usually It has, however, been a very costly be found that the match has been a innovation for the women of the cirmutually beneficial one, and that the cus. Long dresses are much more excleverness of each contributes to their pensive and soil more readily than mutual success in the circus life. Mar- short ones. This means that instead performing their own acts, that has riage to the circus girl does not mean of two or three costumes, the up-to- become a habit with them. They are, retirement and a home, as is the case date arenic star must have a half however, extremely nervous in watchwith girls who are engaged in other dozen, with hats, gloves, lingerie and ing a perllous performance in others. occupations. It simply means that shoes to match. Salarles have gone up, henceforth instead of appearing with but so have expenses, and circus wo- other respects. The bravest of them her parents or sisters, she will be as, men annually spend hundreds of dol- will scream at the appearance of a sociated in her professional work with lars in endeavoring to keep up to the mouse; several of them refused to ride her husband. The old life goes on unstandard of modern circus costuming. in the New York subway last spring; rider, belongs to an American family interruptedly, except when mother- Mme. Florenz has one dress for her and the plucklest of the women chariot of gymnasts and equestriennes that hood, which is very dear and sweet to or symmetric and equestriennes that thou, which is very dear and sweet to acropatic act that cost 2,700 francs in car is in the room. An accident, however, and trace its circus ancestry back for the circus women, temporarily breaks. nearly 100 years; Mme. Florenz, of the fortunate Florenz Company of acrobats, is the daughter of Pierre Antoni, race suicide in the circus. The babies ceived over 3,000 francs for the work. Days, is use daughter of Pierre Antoni, lace suicide in the circus. The babies ceived over 3,000 francs for the work, are good angels to those who a for the proprietor and of the circus are as numerous and as And these are only two instances out jured, whether men or women. director of the greatest circus in Italy. pretty as the bables of any other so- of many where very large sums of

all "to the manor born." Jennie Silbon has a circus pedigree containing joy and the universal pet and pride motive toward making the female performers dress in the height of fashion ments are formed, and when at the whenever it is possible to do so in the cousins of Toda Siegrist, the head of the ways busy. The actual period of time by the management that they dress by the management that they d up to a certain standard, the number parting. For the same compasy never tots, and their parents taught them not long, but it necessitates her being the ruding real taught them have become endeared to a playground when they were toddling forming thrilling feats in mid-air is of gowns a circus woman wears and tween the performances during the Much of the time in the interim is the performances during the for years compating the tours with a decrease during the for years compating the tours with a decrease during the for years compating the tours with a decrease during the for years compating the tours with a decrease during the for years compating the tours with a decrease during the for years compating the formal decrease during the decrease during the formal decrease during the decrease during tours with a circus in rural England.

Spent in taking care of her wardrobe of it—welcomed the change from forever. Little Pearl Silbon is the niece of Edward Silbon, who is the most prominent possessor today of a name that has ing more necessary year after year. been associated with the circus in England for many generations. Mrs. John circus has gone. There has been a circus has gone, the equestrienne, comes of an old circus family; so does La Belle Carpage. This direct area for the saddle many generations. This area and the direct area for view to be plain, thrifty and saving, and a many the saddle many companies.

there are few moments when the circ cus woman's fingers are not usefully employed. Fancy needlework is her ever-present solace and joy, and enough pretty lace and drawnwork for personal wear and for gifts is made during the season as would stock a fancy goods store. Circus women are not inveterate readers, but a good novel will always go the rounds and create one of the enterprising men show has established a little circulatsault in a gown was considered impossible. Women had in fact just begun the women of the show, and a dozen to demonstrate that they could rival novels may always be seen in the wothe men as gymnasts. For years the men's dressing tent. They are not mere turning of a handspring by a only there, but they are also read, and woman was considered a remarkable though the statement may be surpris-

circus. She learns to admire certain things in the youthful performers. She things in the youthful performers. She forms—perhaps unconsciously—an ideal members performed in long dresses. It aerial teams is invited to be the guest of her future husband, but almost in-variably from the viewpoint of the hardly meets the requirevariably from the viewpoint of the circus. When, finally, she meets a persistent wooer, and after a proper court-

Circus women are never timorous in

jealousy among circus women. They constitute a great family, which in the very nature of things is compelled to live in close intimacy seven or close of the season the band plays "Home, Sweet Home," there is many

men of the circus will give an added interest to the visit of the Barnum & Bailey show to London, Thursday,



A BARNUM BAILEY RIDE