

In the early days of the circus it was not uncommon for performers to "adopt" children for the express purpose of training them to the profession. Annie Carroll, the equestrienne, was one of those. Professor "Pop" Carroll, who operated a school for the training of circus performers, located near Van Nest station on the Harlem River branch of the New York-New Haven-Hartford railroad, found her in an English village and made a star of her, keeping the \$200-a-week salary for himself. In 1883, still under contract to Carroll and by that time paying him \$40 a week, she married Eddie Snow, an acrobat from Barnum's. Snow had also been a pickup, discovered by John Snow, the rider and contortionist, who found him in Pittsburg.³⁸

In 1866, then with Forepaugh's Circus, Dan Rice was near Schenectady, New York, when he made the acquaintance of a six-year-old girl. She became so enamored with him that her parents indentured her to Rice, and he began her training as a rider. He changed her name to Lizzie Marcellus, and her talent eventually earned her \$100 a week from Barnum. In the summer of 1873, before Lizzie was of age, she fell in love with an Italian performer named Cardona, and the pair were married (against "Uncle Dan's" wishes). Cardona proved a jealous husband, and he tried to slit her throat. Rice and William H. Stowe (a "blackface clown" working for Rice, and son of the well-known circus man) saved her, and a suit for divorce was brought in Chicago. It was granted in 1875, and shortly thereafter she married the 24-year-old Stowe. Tragically, the Stowes, along with their two young children, a boy of seven by her first husband and their five-year-old daughter, were burned to death aboard the *Golden City*.

The custom of performers marrying was widespread, and in the 1880s, contracts were issued to families rather than individuals. Their children necessarily went into the business,