

# Annie People



Member

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Of Fan Clubs

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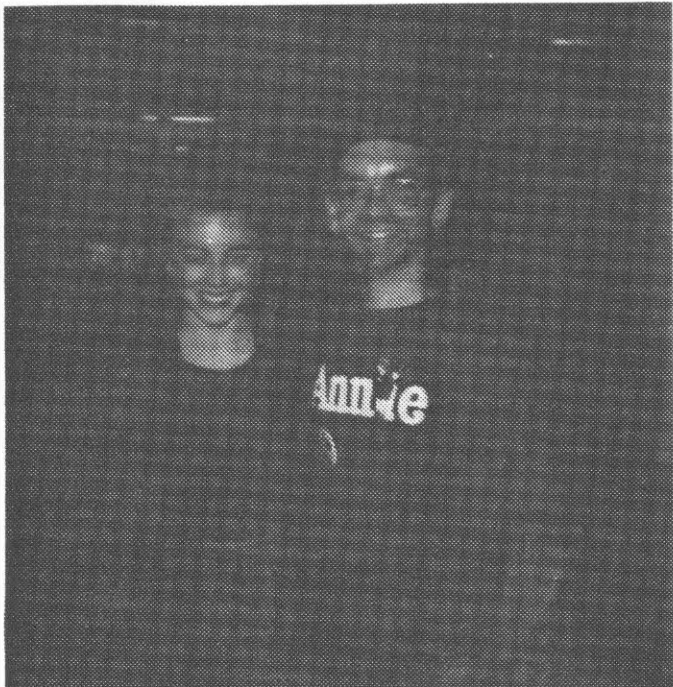
Artwork by Tricia Trozzi, co-editor and columnist

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Submitted by Larry Skrdla



Larry Skrdla of Lambertville, Michigan, met Alyssa Milano in Detroit when she was appearing on a talk show called Kelly & Company. Alyssa was in the 2nd National for a year and a half before getting the part in Who's The Boss? and moving to California. Congratulations to Larry, who saw Annie on the stage for his 100th time since his first in November 1978.

Followers of Kate And Allie will recognize the kitchen set where Tricia and Allison Smith posed for a picture after a show taping that Tricia attended this past winter. Allison is done with K&A until the summer when the new season starts taping. Meanwhile, preparations are being made for Allison to begin recording her album sometime in the next month or two.

# ★ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ★

DEBBIE GIBSON's Out Of The Blue album is in the national top ten and has gone platinum, just as the title cut becomes her third consecutive top five single (see separate story)...MOLLY RINGWALD is starring in the upcoming Cannon Films adaptation of Shakespeare's King Lear, which also stars Peter Sellars....We recently heard from LESLIE FEAGAN, who played Bundles and Ickes in the 2nd National with MARISA MORELL and later in the 4th National with KATHLEEN SISK. He is currently playing on Broadway in Anything Goes. He says he has kept up with others from his Annie casts over the years, including JOHN LaMOTTA, who is seen on Monday nights on ALF on NBC as the family's next door neighbor....Seen on TV lately: ALYSSA MILANO on Fan Club, The Morning Show, and Kelly & Company in Detroit, DEBBIE GIBSON on Fast Forward and Fan Club, and AMANDA PETERSON on Wil Shriner....STACEY MOSELEY recently appeared on Loving and is now involved in an Off-Broadway workshop called Johnny Pye And The Fool Killer....ALICE GHOSTLEY has appeared on Small Wonder and Punky Brewster this year, and both REID SHELTON and KEN SWOFFORD have appeared on NBC's Our House....ALYSSA MILANO was voted the #1 favorite female TV star by readers of Teen Beat magazine. In the same survey MOLLY RINGWALD was voted the #2 favorite female movie star and DEBBIE GIBSON the #2 favorite female singer....This winter, as in past winters, JULIE STEVENS has been singing the National Anthem at Philadelphia Flyers and Sixers games, and RENEE SHIELDS has been appearing at Walt Disney World....The new movie Biloxi Blues was produced by Annie movie producer RAY STARK and directed by original Annie Broadway producer MIKE NICHOLS, and was written by Neil Simon, whose name is now on the Alvin Theatre....At the final performance of the Off-Broadway revival of Sally in January, it turned out to be an Annie cast reunion of sorts. In the show were SANDY (who received big applause when he came on stage), EDWIN BORDO (Broadway's Drake), GUY STROMAN (a Broadway Rooster), and CAROLYN KIRSCH (Lily in the 1983 Guber & Gross post-Broadway Annie tour). In the audience were several other Annie alumni, including two members of the original company ensemble, JIM HOSBEIN (Bundles and Harold Ickes) and BOB FRESCHI (Fred McCracken and Louis Howe). ROBERT FITCH, who originated the role of Rooster Hannigan, remarked that "being reminded through Annie People of what I'd been involved with makes me feel very good, part of a wonderful moment." But he has also been keeping busy playing in Pirates of Penzance and Sugar Babies; writing, directing, and choreographing a mystery musical called Switch; and again directing a production of Annie, this time in Fort Worth, Texas, which starred the 1st National's NORWOOD SMITH as Oliver Warbucks. Also present were DOROTHY STANLEY (Broadway's final Lily St. Regis), who recently performed in another production of Dames At Sea, and JEANNE LEHMAN (Grace Farrell at the Darien (CT) Dinner Theatre) who was in a revival of Company....Birthdays: BERNADETTE PETERS, 40 on February 28; SUSAN LIPTON, 15 on March 4; JULIE STEVENS, 18 on March 22; SARAH JESSICA PARKER, 23 on March 25; LISA LYNNE, 15 on April 11; JENNIFER MAILLET, 17 on April 16; SHARON JORDAN, 16 on April 22; CAROL BURNETT, 54 on April 26.

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LATE UPDATE: Atlantic Records has just released "Foolish Beat" as a single from DEBBIE GIBSON's album. This is the one that she produced which has already been #1 as an album cut in south Florida. Good luck with this new one, Debbie!

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FOR SALE: Applause Annie Porcelain Doll, \$30; Applause Annie Ceramic Figurines (6 different), \$15 each; Applause Annie Ceramic Mugs (6 different), \$5 each. All prices include first class postage. Now is your chance to complete your Applause ceramic Annie collections. Order from Jon Merrill, Box 431, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927. Many other Annie items available also. What do you need?

DEBBIE GIBSON'S ALBUM SELLS ITS ONE MILLIONTH COPY  
She's Currently In The Top Ten -- Both Singles And Albums

It seems hard to believe that it has been a year since March of 1987, when Annie People became the first fan publication in the country to report on Debbie Gibson's brand-new record, "Only In My Dreams." (Actually, Debbie herself first appeared in AP way back in July 1985, issue #16, when she was in the Youngstars showcase in New York.) Now it is March 1988, and in the last year that record by Debbie went top five and has been followed by two more top five hits on the pop and dance charts, "Shake Your Love" and "Out Of The Blue." "Out Of The Blue" just hit #4 on the Billboard pop chart and looks as if it will very easily become Debbie's biggest hit so far of the three.

AP talked recently with a spokesperson at Broadbeard Productions, who said that Debbie has been "a very, very, very busy girl." Debbie recently toured in England with her live band and sold out every one of her performances there, which helped "Shake Your Love" reach the top ten on the British charts. Then, after another tour covering Holland, Italy, and Germany, Debbie returned home just around the time her album Out Of The Blue "went platinum." That means that the album has gone past one million copies in sales. And with it currently way up in the top ten on the album chart on Billboard, it doesn't look as if it will stop only at the million mark.

There will probably be a fourth hit released from the album soon, and it may be the ballad "Foolish Beat," which was produced by Debbie. Even though the song has not been released as a single, it hit #1 anyway in Miami as an album cut and is rising on the charts in Dallas. Actually, whatever comes out next will be Debbie's fifth single, since "Red Hot" was released as both a 7" and a 12" single after it was featured late last year in the soundtrack of the film Fatal Beauty starring Whoopi Goldberg.

On April 9th Debbie will be at the New York Music Awards presentation, where she has been nominated for awards in several categories. After that, she will continue working on material for her second album and will also be getting ready to graduate from high school in June. Then it's off around the country on tour, which will begin around July. Meanwhile, she continues to perform with the band at various college dates on the East Coast.

And look for Debbie in the pages of magazines; she has been featured in several teen publications, and she has also been named spokesperson for Revlon's Natural Wonder makeup line, so her picture will be seen in Revlon ads too.

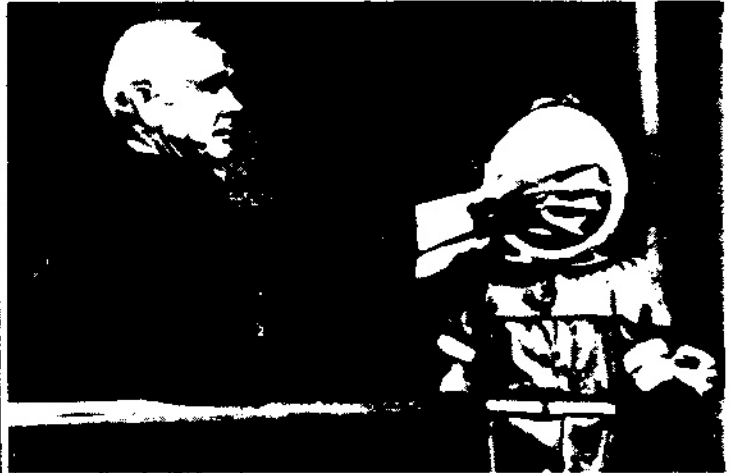
Many of you have written to AP inquiring about a fan club for Debbie; there is one, and its address is The Debbie Gibson Fan Club, Box 489, Merrick, NY 11566. Send a long self-addressed stamped envelope for information on how to join Debbie's fan club. Please be patient; remember that the Gibson family spends a lot of time traveling and may not be home exactly when you write.

What's ahead for Debbie Gibson in her second year as a rock star? She has so much going on right now, it's hard to tell. There will be a major tour this summer, as well as a second album (which will contain a terrific new song called "Lost In Your Eyes" which I heard on a live radio broadcast of Debbie and her band at a New York club on New Year's Eve). And what about the future? Debbie says she would like to do a movie "in a Molly Ringwald-type role" sometime. She would also like to write and produce material for other singers and groups. And of course, she still has her dreams of winning a Grammy and singing a duet with Billy Joel. (By the way, Billy called her at her NYC club date to wish her a Happy New Year!)



(c) Star Hits  
Submitted by Lowell Kanner  
Debbie with her sister Denise, 13. Denise (Kate) was 8 when she played in Annie with Debbie (July) in the Broadhollow Theatre production on Long Island.

# HEEEERE'S JOHNNY... WITH PIE IN THE EYE FOR 'ORPHAN ANNIE'



(c) Star Submitted by Sandy Michaels

FOR MORE than a month, the skies had been relentlessly cloudy and overcast in normally sunny southern California and Tonight Show host Johnny Carson, like almost everyone else, was beginning to feel the

strain. So, when tiny actress Ashley Snee, dressed in a Little Orphan Annie costume, appeared on the show to sing "...the sun will come out tomorrow..." Johnny let fly with a sunny custard-cream pie.

Last year we published in AP a picture of Johnny Carson nailing Annie in the face with a pie and asked if any readers had seen him do it or knew anything about it. Well, two readers remembered it well, and here are their accounts of this historic television incident of somewhat dubious distinction:



From Sandy Michaels of Toronto, who sent in the complete three-part clipping:

"I'm sending an old, much yellowed clipping (from the Star, August 1982) of Annie getting a pie in the face on the Tonight Show. This article has been lying on a desk in my basement since I've lived here; I never bothered putting it in a scrapbook because it didn't have anything to do with the play. I saw that show as well, and I can tell you what happened. It's exactly like the article shows; a small girl dressed up as Annie walked out from behind the backdrop and started to sing 'Tomorrow' and he 'pied' her."

And, from Matthew Pancake of Ironton, Ohio:

"Mr. Carson had just made an announcement that he had just about had enough of a local radio station playing the single of 'Tomorrow' from the movie over and over. So, to demonstrate his perturbation, he hired the poor girl to come in singing the song, quite nicely at that, whereupon he hit her in the face with the pie and then proclaimed, 'That's what I think of Annie!'"

"THAT DOG THERE--AIN'T I SEEN HIM RUNNING  
AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD? AIN'T HE A STRAY?"

by Tricia Trozzi

Yes, he may have started out as a stray, but he ended up being pretty famous. AP is sad to report that O'Malley, one of Bill Berloni's four Sandy dogs (the others are the 3rd National's Moose, the 4th National's Roxanne, and the original Broadway Sandy) died on February 26, 1988 from cancer. He was 11 years old.

O'Malley was found roaming the streets of New York City in 1978 by a friend of Martin Charnin's. This mixed breed dog had been burned on his back and was very scared of people when he came under Bill Berloni's loving care in July of that year. Sandy's original understudy, who was named Arf, died a few months later, so Bill then began training O'Malley to perform the role of Little Orphan Annie's canine companion. By November 1978 O'Malley was ready to perform and began waiting in the wings at the Alvin Theatre. Maybe he felt restless, though, not going on stage as often as he would have liked, because one day in 1981 he ran away from the Alvin and was lost. When he was found the next day, it made the New York newspapers and TV news.

When the 4th National touring company opened in September 1981 O'Malley was back again as understudy, this time under Roxanne. After that tour closed in 1983 O'Malley was sent out to do many local Annie productions. But he was also very popular doing commercials and other TV work, and he also did three Afterschool Special-type shows in '83 and '84 called Morgan, Buddies, and Angus Lost. O'Malley's final performances on film are a currently running M&Ms commercial and a featured role in the movie Dominick and Eugene, which opened this month. O'Malley plays the "best friend" of the retarded brother in the film, and when he is run over, it will surely bring a lump to the throat of any animal lover, and especially anyone who has seen O'Malley perform as Sandy.

O'Malley was always a professional onstage, and offstage he was very friendly; always ready to play and even perform his tricks for strangers. He will be missed by all who ever saw his expressive face and wagging tail.



Photo by Martha Swope

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#### ANNIE-RELATED FAN CLUBS

ANDREA McARDLE F.C. - Christopher White, 1010 Elm Street, St. Charles, IL 60174

ALLISON SMITH F.C. - Polly Mortensen, 6751 Meade Street, Hollywood, FL 33024

The address for DEBBIE GIBSON's new fan club is in the article on page 3.

# Annie Across the



Submitted by Larry Skrdla



DAYTON, OH - Top row from left, Christiane Otto, Angie Rudd, Patty Powers; bottom row from left, Kelly Michaelis, Tracy Michaelis (Annie), Elizabeth Barrett, Katie Pees



MT. CLEMENS, MI - (Afternoon Cast) clockwise from top, Holly Rivetto, Tracy Ganem, Melody Kocczynski, Ruffles, Kelley Craycraft (Annie), Erin O'Neill, Kelly Michaelis, Kristi Lynn Darkowski



MT. CLEMENS, MI - (Evening Cast) Top row from left, Jennifer Lee Page, Billie Widrick, Rebecca Bahling, Harmony Beddow; bottom row from left, Celia Keenan Bolger, Kelley Craycraft (Annie), Ruffles, Laura Buono

Submitted by Monica Lynn Ramey



INDIANAPOLIS, IN - Monica Lynn Ramey (Annie)



INDIANAPOLIS, IN - From left, Tara Holland, Stephanie Chalmers, Jennifer Decker, Kori McOmber, Monica Lynn Ramey (Annie), Jana Lugar, Brandy Stultz

Submitted by Monica Lynn Ramey

LEONARD STARR'S ANNIE COMIC STRIP

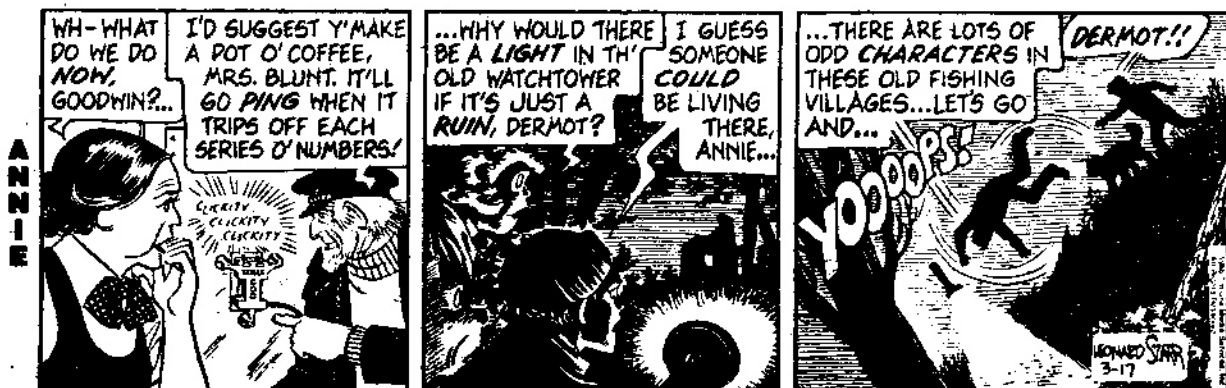
When Leonard Starr's new strip feature was getting ready to begin in late 1979, newspapers had been reprinting old Harold Gray strips for about five years. The official beginning of the new strips was to be on December 9, 1979, but the last Gray strip, which was a 1948 one, ran one week earlier, on the 2nd. So, Starr wrote six "transitional" strips to bring Annie 31 years into the future in the space of one week, just in time for her to enter the 1980s.

The strip stories of Leonard Starr all overlap to a certain degree, just as Harold Gray's did, but we have attempted to separate them into separate units, with each one beginning on a Monday and ending on a Sunday.

|  |     |                  |
|--|-----|------------------|
| 1. Annie Is Kidnapped And Taken To The Middle East.....  | 15  | 12/3/79-3/16/80  |
| 2. Annie Uncovers Corruption In Washington, D.C.....     | 12  | 3/17/80-6/8/80   |
| 3. May Flowers Joins Big Cheese International.....       | 16  | 6/9/80-9/28/80   |
| 4. Skip Smith Kidnaps Annie From Anya Toze.....          | 19  | 9/29/80-2/8/81   |
| 5. A Couple Of Doctors Investigate Hospital Fraud.....   | 11  | 2/9/81-4/26/81   |
| 6. "Daddy" Falls In Love With Angela Pease.....          | 17  | 4/27/81-8/23/81  |
| 7. Mark Pease Tries To Save The Whales.....              | 14  | 8/24/81-11/29/81 |
| 8. Annie's Elderly Neighbor Lady Uses A Gun.....         | 13  | 11/30/81-2/28/82 |
| 9. Sawyer Oates' Granddaughter Wilda Returns Home.....   | 9   | 3/1/82-5/2/82    |
| 10. Sandy Is Dognapped By The Kneck Brothers.....        | 13  | 5/3/82-8/1/82    |
| 11. "Daddy" Outwits Stella Han And Croesus.....          | 14  | 8/2/82-11/7/82   |
| 12. Annie Has A Mysterious New Playmate Named Libby..... | 14  | 11/8/82-2/13/83  |
| 13. Annie Goes Treasure Hunting With Ezra Eon's Robot... | 19  | 2/14/83-6/26/83  |
| 14. Annie Visits Angela Pease Near The Mexican Border... | 22  | 6/27/83-11/27/83 |
| 15. Annie Has A Very Strange New School Tutor.....       | 18  | 11/28/83-4/1/84  |
| 16. Annie Calls Her New Creature Friend "Snawky".....    | 21  | 4/2/84-8/26/84   |
| 17. Annie Helps Out In Taffy Appleton's Restaurant.....  | 20  | 8/27/84-1/13/85  |
| 18. Annie Is Pursued By The Dastdardly Shaddo.....       | 20  | 1/14/85-6/2/85   |
| 19. Annie Visits Her Old Friend Hucky For The Summer.... | 16  | 6/3/85-9/22/85   |
| 20. Annie's Friend Amity Seems Oddly Old-Fashioned.....  | 15  | 9/23/85-1/5/86   |
| 21. Stella Han Is Determined To Get Her Hands On Annie.. | 62* | 1/6/86-3/15/87   |
| 22. Annie Tangles With A Street Gang and "The Stinger".. | 21  | 3/16/87-8/9/87   |
| 23. Annie Runs Into a Strange Character Named Zeph.....  | 24  | 8/10/87-1/24/88  |
| 24. Annie And Dermot Journey To Blackhull Island.....    |     | 1/25/88-         |

\*This very long story can be more conveniently divided into three parts of 21 weeks, 23 weeks, and 18 weeks.

By the way, contrary to what we said in AP #15 about the length of strip stories 9 and 10, we have decided to go back to 9 weeks and 13 weeks, respectively.



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TALK OF AN ANNIE II MOVIE IS STARTING UP AGAIN

An article in the New York Daily News on March 17th said that "RASTAR will start production of Annie II for Tri-Star June 25 in Budapest (Hungary), on what reportedly will be a modest budget. As the tale evolves, the li'l orphan and her 'Daddy' Warbucks will be on a European mission for the U.S. Government. No casting as yet, but I'm told there is--GLORIOSKY!--a completed script." However, a spokesman at Tri-Star Pictures told AP on the telephone that the movie is "still in the planning stages," and there aren't any more details for now.

Why Hungary? I imagine it is because there has been a trend lately for some studios to film in other countries because it is a lot less expensive (Aileen's upcoming movie The Frog Prince was done by Cannon Films in Israel).

Anyway, it is good to know that Ray Stark and RASTAR Productions still want to get Annie back to the screen, but someone ought to tell the Daily News that our favorite red-haired orphan NEVER said the infamous "C" word--that word was said only by LOA's comic strip imitator, Little Annie Rooney. LEAPIN' LIZARDS!

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Sympathies from the staff of Annie People to the family of Heather O'Rourke, who died on February 1st at age 12. The Poltergeist actress's sister Tammy played an Orphan in the Annie movie and was seen in the "Hard-Knock Life" sequence.

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An article in Teen magazine on Staci Keenan, star of My Two Dads on NBC, says that she was in Annie on stage in the New York area before moving to California. Anybody know where or when?

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\*\*Drop a note to your favorite Annie star today! AP will forward it for you.\*\*

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