

# Annie People



T2

Member



National Association  
Of Fen Clubs

The Newsletter for Annie Fans

No. 47, September 1990

Published by Jon Merrill, 517 North Fenwick Street, Allentown, PA 18103

Artwork by Tricia Trozzi, co-editor and columnist

Contents copyright © 1990 by Jon Merrill for the contributors

Price: Free

Annie People is published every other month in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Publication has been continuous since January 1983.



Photo Credit: From the Washington, D.C. pre-Broadway tryout of Annie at the Kennedy Center, March 1977. Photo by Richard Braaten

SANDY 1974-1990

# Sandy, Mutt Who Made It On Broadway, Dies at 16

By MERVYN ROTHSTEIN

Sandy, who overcame abuse as a puppy and was nearly put to death at a pound before achieving Broadway fame as the best friend of Little Orphan Annie and a member of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's inner circle, died in his sleep yesterday at the age of 16. The dog, a beige terrier mix, lived in Haddam, Conn., with his owner and trainer, William Berloni.

Sandy thrilled youngsters for the entire run of the musical "Annie," which opened at the Alvin Theater on April 21, 1977, and closed on Jan. 2, 1983, after 2,377 performances. Sandy missed only 14 of those performances, Mr. Berloni said yesterday, and was absent only to go to Las Vegas, Nev., for a guest appearance with Liberace and Andrea McArdle, the original Annie on Broadway.

A stray, Sandy had led a hard-knock life and was one day away from being put to sleep at the Connecticut Humane Society when Mr. Berloni found him in 1976 and gave him an opportunity for a life in the theater.

## 'The Cheapest Way'

"I was 18 years old and an apprentice at the Goodspeed Opera House," Mr. Berloni recalled. "I was assigned the job of finding and training the dog for 'Annie' because there was nobody else to do it. The director, Martin Charnin, gave me a description of the size and color he wanted. This was summer stock, and there was no money to rent anybody else's dog, so I figured the cheapest way was to go to the Connecticut Humane Society."

It was there that he met Sandy. "He was an abused dog, and a professional trainer probably wouldn't have taken him," Mr. Berloni said. "He didn't really look like the comic strip — he didn't have the pointy ears and the happy face — but I felt sorry for him. So I took him."

He bought the animal for \$8 on the day Sandy was to be put to death.

He had no idea whether he could train Sandy. "When you don't know anything about what you're doing, you don't know you can fail," he said. "It was just summer stock, and if the dog didn't do the tricks it was no big deal."



Martha Swope

Sandy, 1974-1990

Mr. Berloni and Ms. McArdle worked together at Goodspeed on training Sandy, teaching him "20 basic behaviors."

"We taught him to be calm in front of thousands of people, which is a major feat," Mr. Berloni said. "He had to heel, stay, bark on cue, roll over, jump up, and cross the stage searching for Annie."

## White House Appearances

Sandy appeared twice at the Tony Awards and six times at the White House, performing for President Jimmy Carter and President Ronald Reagan, Mr. Berloni said. Sandy's autobiography, the story of a dog that goes from being an abused animal to a Broadway star, told in the first person, was published by Simon & Schuster, the trainer said.

A couple of years ago, Sandy began to develop degenerative arthritis, which led to nerve damage and paralysis, Mr. Berloni said. He added that Sandy was cremated yesterday and asked that donations in Sandy's memory be made to the Connecticut Humane Society in Newington.

"He had such a full and wonderful life," Ms. McArdle said yesterday. "He was a mutt, but he was an extraordinary dog."



ARF: Andrea McArdle, the original "Annie," Reid Shelton, who played Daddy Warbucks, and Sandy.

## Dog gone: Annie's Sandy dies

By MARTIN BURDEN

**A** FEATURED Broadway performer who set a record, never argued about his billing, and never bit a critic died yesterday at the age of 16. He was Sandy, the mutt who delighted audiences in the Broadway musical "Annie" for six years.

He died at the Higganum, Conn., home of his trainer, Bill Berloni, and was cremated.

Sandy's own story might have made a movie — but then Hollywood probably would have cast Lassie in the role.

Berloni had been asked to find a dog for "Annie." "It had to be sandy-colored, because of the name, that was the main requirement," Berloni recalled. "I went to an animal shelter in Connecticut and found this dog that was a day away from being put to sleep. He was terrified of humans — he'd been abused."

With loving care, Berloni worked with the dog and trained him to the point where Sandy was able to work with five different Annies and six Daddy Warbucks without difficulty.

"It was the longest-running performance on Broadway by an animal," Berloni said. "Sandy had two understudies, but he missed only 16 performances, most of those when he went to Las Vegas to appear in a night club act with Andrea McArdle [the original Annie]."

Did Sandy ever miss a cue? "No more than any human actor," Berloni said.

Sandy missed out on a screen career when the producers of the stage show refused to release him to reprise his role in the "Annie" movie.

Berloni will have a life-size bronze made of Sandy, with his ashes enclosed.

Said McArdle last night: "I'll miss him. He may have been a mutt but he was just so loyal. It's kind of like losing a person."

**DIED:** Sandy, 16, the beloved terrier who played Little Orphan Annie's sidekick in the original Broadway production of "Annie" from 1977 to 1983;

after suffering from degenerative arthritis, in Haddam, Conn., Aug. 29. Sandy was a stray who was rescued, hours before he was to be put to sleep in a Connecticut pound, by a canine talent scout. The dog, who played the role of Sandy in 2,377 performances, had his autobiography published in 1978.



MARTHA SWOPE

**DIED.** Sandy, 16, the mutt turned superstar who for six years delighted audiences at the Broadway smash musical *Annie*; of old age (he was 80 in human years); in Higganum, Conn. A mix of Airedale terrier and Irish Setter, he was bought from a humane society for \$8 the day he was to be put down. As the pooch who befriends Annie, Sandy stayed with the show for its entire run. ■

These press notices give an indication of how famous and popular Sandy was. *Entertainment Tonight* and other TV news shows also mentioned him. The AP staff had seen Sandy on Broadway, in a special appearance with the 1984 National Tour in New Haven, CT, in a 3-month run at the Darien (CT) Dinner Theatre in 1987, and in the 1988 Off-Broadway revival of *Sally*--for which Sandy's return to the stage was critically acclaimed. Sandy will be greatly missed by all *Annie* fans who saw him perform. He is irreplaceable.

# FINAL CURTAIN FOR SANDY

## Stray that starred in 'Annie' and won hearts dies at 16

HADDAM, Conn. (AP)—Sandy, the stray dog that was rescued from the pound and went on to star in the Broadway smash "Annie," died yesterday in his sleep at the age of 16-112 years in terms of human aging—his trainer said.

Sandy, a tan Airdale-Irish setter mix, originated the role of Annie's faithful dog of the same name in the Goodspeed Opera House's 1976 production in Connecticut, said William Berloni, Sandy's owner and trainer. Sandy went on to New York for the entire Broadway run, from 1977 to 1983.

Berloni was an 18-year-old apprentice at the Goodspeed in East Haddam, Conn., with no experience as an animal trainer when he discovered Sandy at the Connecticut Humane Society the day before he was to be put to death.

The show's producers, unwilling to pay the \$600 a week for a professionally trained dog, told Berloni to go out and find one that fit the description of the dog Annie named for "his nice sandy color."

After seeing 500 lost, stolen and stray canines in a half-dozen pounds, Berloni found Sandy—skinny, sad-eyed and cowering in the corner of his cage at the humane society in Newington. Berloni paid \$8 for him.

"He had been abused, he was frightened of people," Berloni said. "So when we treated him with kindness and love and affection, he really responded. That made him easy to train."

Sandy won the hearts of theatergoers as the dog that befriends Annie after she runs away from an

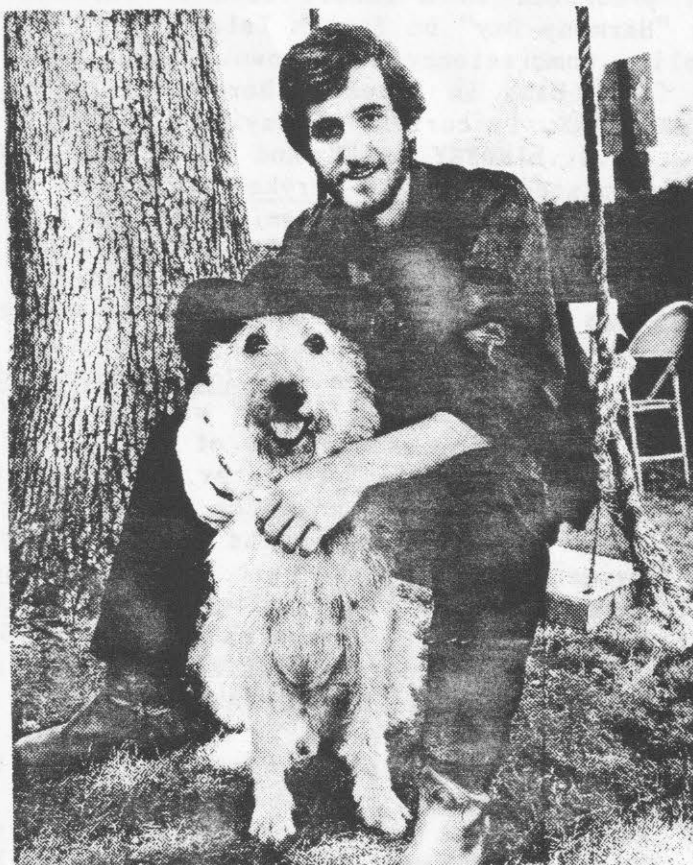


Photo by Steve Klaver

Bill Berloni in 1979 with his dog Sandy, who starred in the Broadway play 'Annie'

orphanage. The two are separated and spend much of the musical looking for each other until they are

reunited for a happy ending.

"It's interesting how one animal touched so many lives," Berloni

said. "People liked to believe in fun things and Annie and Sandy, wherever they went, really brought a lot of joy to people."

Sandy had to perform more than 20 stunts during the show, including barking on a hand signal to protect Annie from the police and walking across the stage by himself, looking left and right in search of Annie.

During the Broadway run, Berloni and Sandy lived in a New York apartment, and then in New Jersey. When "Annie" was the hottest ticket on Broadway, Sandy was chauffeured around Manhattan in a limousine, and was often allowed into restaurants for promotions.

"When he was at home, he was just a dog," Berloni said. "That's what he wanted—he wanted to be with me."

Sandy performed for Presidents Carter and Reagan, visited the White House six times and appeared twice at Broadway's Tony Awards.

After the show closed, Sandy retired to Connecticut, but made occasional guest appearances.

Berloni said Sandy suffered in recent years from degenerative arthritis and bone spurs on his spine that brought on paralysis and general weakness.

"Working dogs... when they can't do their jobs any more, they really give up and die," Berloni said. "He decided his time was up."

Berloni asked that donations in Sandy's memory be made to the Connecticut Humane Society in Newington.

# SANDY

*"The great pleasure of a dog, is that you make a fool of yourself with him, and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too."*

...Samuel Butler

Martin Charnin

Sandy, 16, the dog who starred in "Annie" on Broadway, died Aug. 29 in Higganum, Conn., in his sleep. His owner and trainer, William Berloni, discovered the mutt in 1976 at the Connecticut Humane Society. The dog had been abused and was a stray. Berloni bought Sandy for \$8 on the day the dog was to be put to death. A terrier mix, Sandy performed in "Annie" for the length of its Broadway run, from April 21, 1977 to Jan. 2, 1983, missing only 14 shows. The canine star appeared on various tv programs, including the Tony Awards, and performed at the White House six times. His biography was published by Simon & Schuster.

# ☆ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ☆

DANIELLE FINDLEY performed the lead role of "a little French waif" in a new musical called Opal, presented in a resort town in Indiana this summer. She also participated in "Harmony Day" on Staten Island, NYC, performing for Mayor David Dinkins and Police Commissioner Lee Brown. Danielle will be playing the title role in Annie in Alabama in January. Her Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge "double," JULIANA MARX, is currently playing Annie in a two-month run of Annie in Vero Beach, FL....LINDSEY ALLEY and ALICE GHOSTLEY teamed up once again, this time on an episode of B. J. Stryker on ABC-TV in May. Lindsey (at age 8) played Annie and Alice played Miss Hannigan at the Burt Reynolds Jupiter Theatre in Florida in Annie with NORWOOD SMITH, ROBERT FITCH, EDWIN BORDO, JAN PESSANO, and MOOSE. Earlier Alice had played Miss Hannigan on Broadway with ALLISON SMITH. Lindsey has just begun her second season on the Disney Channel as a Mouseketeer on the Mickey Mouse Club....Lots of activity for ANDREA McARDLE in the last few months: TV appearances on the Joan Lunden Show, Live At Five, and Geraldo Rivera; Andrea and daughter Alexis were on the cover of Working Mother magazine (April); Andrea and LeRoy Reames of 42nd Street performed at the opening of the U.S. Open Golf Tournament and later performed in Turkey. And, as of the summer, Andrea had completed six songs for her upcoming album. Thanks to Chris White of Andrea's fan club for keeping us up to date on Andrea's doings ....MARTHA BYRNE was a guest star in a two-part episode of The Young Riders on ABC-TV in early May....MARIAN SELDES, Commissioner Stark in Annie 2 (and Mrs. Christmas in Washington) was married to Garson Kanin on June 19th in New York on a Monday off from the show at Goodspeed....JULIE FLYNN, who appeared as Annie earlier this year in Cleveland, and as Kate in Akron in 1988, plays the leading role of Meredith in a Cleveland-based cable TV show this fall called The Pizza Conspiracy. Julie was also the first place vocal winner in the Keeth Stewart Talent Show last February in which the prize money was donated by DEBBIE GIBSON. As Debbie fans know, Keeth Stewart is a back-up singer and dancer for Debbie ....LAUREN MITCHELL, Grace on Broadway in Annie and at the Kennedy Center in Annie 2: MHR starred in Kiss Of The Spider Woman, directed by Harold Prince last spring at the State University of New York in Westchester....TANI TAYLOR POWERS plays Marilyn Fogelman in the movie The Lemon Sisters, currently playing in theaters nationwide....LEE SFORZA did a fine job playing Chiffon in Little Shop Of Horrors in New Rochelle, New York last spring. Later on, in the summer she was in The Wizard Of Oz along with GINA RENDE, one of her former Annie Orphans....DEBBIE HAMMOND has been performing in various locations near Pittsburgh with the Mini-Stars group. Younger sister Lisa was featured in JUDE POHL's production of Damn Yankees in August; Jude had produced the Annie show in 1987 which featured Debbie as Molly with MONICA LEE GRADISCHEK. For the third summer Monica performed each day in the Wild Bunch group at Idlewild amusement park in Ligonier, PA (see AP #41) doing her unique blend of pop, country, and comedy. Monica is now in the Big Apple, having just begun her first year as a musical theater major at New York University....Two very fine former Annies landed the title role again this summer: MONICA LYNN RAMEY in Syracuse, IN in July, and BROOKE KRANZ in Freeport, NY in August....SANDY MICHAELS did Aladdin And His Lamp and The Princess And The Pea in Toronto at the same theater where she did Annie six years ago. She also played Heidi in The Girl On The Mountain, a musical based on the story of Heidi. This fall Sandy will be in a touring show in Canada called Lynne et L'homme de la Malle....DEBBIE GIBSON won three New York Music Awards this year: Favorite Female Pop Vocalist, Best Video ("Electric Youth"), and Song Of The Year ("Lost In Your Eyes"). In the spring Debbie went around to high schools in New York City to talk to the students about writing, producing, and performing. She also wrote and produced two songs for Ana's album Body Language. Perhaps many of you saw her as co-host on the Earth '90 TV

special. This summer Debbie has been working on her third album, due for release around November. She also has a new videotape coming out this fall, which will contain her last few videos plus some footage from last year's Electric Youth tour. Nothing new on Skirts; Debbie believes that even if it is ever filmed, she very likely would have outgrown her role by then and someone else would do it....**SARAH ELIZABETH BARKOFF** is in Them, a movie thriller starring John Saxon which came out in June....Did you know: **ALYSSA MILANO** has released two albums already, but the reason none of us have seen them in the stores is because they are available only in Japan! I special ordered both of them on CD; they are very good. Alyssa is one of the most popular American stars in that country and has toured there....**EDWIN BORDO** played in The Spectacular Days Of Radio with Julius LaRosa at the Trump Plaza in Atlantic City last winter.... Sympathies go out to the family of **T. J. MEYERS**, who passed away on August 28th. T. J. played Babe Ruth in Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge....**AISLING MULHERN** won the role of Margaret in Dennis The Menace which played in the summer in Baltimore....**BECKY BAHLING** was Winnie The Pooh in The House At Pooh Corner last spring. She also sings as part of the Academy for Popular Vocal Arts in Michigan....**KELSI OSBORN** and **KASSIDY OSBORN** spent the summer in Nashville recording and working on their country music act. Older sister Kristyn was the grand prize winner over 1200 songwriters in the 7th Annual Mid-Atlantic Song Writing Contest held in Washington, D.C. with her song "My Heart Beats For You," which the Osborn Sisters performed at the event. Congratulations, Kristyn!...**PAUL GOLDIE** of Goldie Theatrical Dogs, Inc. will be directing Annie in Convent Station, NJ in October. The show will star **DUFFY** as Sandy, with **BUNDLES** as the understudy....Birthdays (as we do some catching up): **STEPHANIE WINTERS**, 20 on May 1; **SHELLEY BRUCE**, 25 on May 5; **ALBERT FINNEY**, 54 on May 9; **ARLENE KULIS**, 18 on May 12; **PATTI GILBERT**, 21 on May 23; **CHARLES STROUSE**, 62 on June 7; **DEBORAH WEBSTER**, 21 on June 11, **NATALIA HARRIS**, 11 on June 12; **LOREN KAUFMAN**, 17 on June 16; **STEPHANIE KAE SEELEY**, 19 on June 24; **AILEEN QUINN**, 19 on June 28; **DANIELLE BRISEBOIS**, 21 on June 28; **LARA BERK**, 18 on July 12; **TARA CARNES**, 20 on July 16; **DANIELLE FINDLEY**, 12 on July 18; **LAURA BAKER**, 18 on July 22; **SARAH BETHANY REYNOLDS**, 17 on July 27; **PATRICIA ANN PATTS**, 23 on July 31; **KIA GOODWIN**, 17 on August 2; **KIMBERLEE DAVIS**, 18 on August 7; **KIMBERLY STERN**, 16 on August 12; **THOMAS MEEHAN**, 61 on August 14; **KRISTEN SCHMITZ**, 20 on August 15; **ROBIN IGNICO**, 20 on August 19; **JENNIFER BLAIRE**, 20 on August 20; **ALLISON HARVEY**, 17 on August 30; **BLAZE BERDAHL**, 10 on September 6; **MOLLIE HALL**, 20 on September 8; **MELISSA KALFA**, 19 on September 9; **HARVE PRESNELL**, 57 on September 14; **LISA MOLINA**, 12 on September 20; **JENNIFER BETH GLICK**, 12 on September 25; **DOROTHY ANDRES**, 15 on October 13; **LAUREN GAFFNEY**, 11 on October 16; **MONICA MILLER**, 17 on October 29.



The Osborn Sisters: Kassidy, Kelsi, and Kristyn Osborn

Submitted by Larry Benton



Kassidy and Kelsi at Annie in 1988  
Salt Lake City, UT

# Annie Across the USA



Submitted by Cynthia Moser

SALEM, OH - Top row, Stacey Schoffman, Samantha Santee, Ann Helman Ramsey, Amanda Frost, Laura Farkas, Jennifer Young; middle row, Tiffany McFarlane, Kristen M. Hartz, Addie Clutter, Jeanine Rees (Annie), Elena Gallo, Erin Callahan; bottom row, Laura Jeckavitch, Katie Newman



FREEPORT, NY - Top row, Allison Berman, Brooke Kranz (Annie), Irene Xanthoudakis, Yolette Battle; bottom row, Leslie Berman, Michelle Suesens, Jeana Utrecht



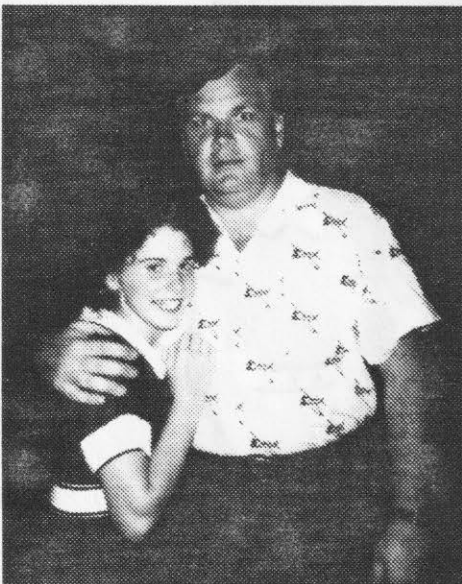
Submitted by Lowell Kammer

NIAGARA FALLS, NY - Shannon McAuliffe (Annie) with piano accompanist Lowell Kammer



Submitted by Larry Skrdla

CLYDE, OH - Top row, Heather Noss, Mindy Hoffman, Kristi Mounts, Tonya Davenport; bottom row, Kim Lieb, Heidi Kizer, Rebecca Ball, Sarah Davidson



SYRACUSE, IN - Monica Lynn Ramey (Annie) with John Tonner



SYRACUSE, IN - Top row, Heather Lapham, Clarissa Dubois, Monica Lynn Ramey (Annie), Beth Davis, Jennifer Zehr; bottom row, Erin Griffith, Emily Roebuck, Robynn Kozak, Molly Roebuck



Submitted by Stacey Barker

TEMPERANCE, MI - Stacey Barker (Annie)

I Remember Annie....

THE ANNIE MOTHERS HAVE THEIR DAY

by Lorene Carol Evans

One Saturday matinee during the summer of '79, the Los Angeles Annie stage show at the Shubert Theatre had local elementary and junior high school students as their entire audience. The students were promised a personal question and answer period with the Orphans and Annie after the performance.

Immediately after the show, the audience remained in their seats expectantly, and backstage, I noticed the stage manager of Annie, Ron Cummins, looked worried. To my query, he replied, "What else can I do besides just talk, to keep these kids entertained?"

In California, child labor laws dictate each child must have a guardian on the set, and this position usually falls to the mother. Guardians were relegated to the Green Room during all activities, seldom, if ever, getting the thrill or satisfaction of participating or helping with anything (they weren't Union!). Thinking quickly, I made a suggestion: Suppose all the mothers were brought onstage with all the Orphans, and the audience could guess which Orphan belonged to which mother.

The stage manager gave no indication of hearing me, but soon I noticed all the mothers had been rounded up backstage during the question and answer period with the audience, and in a short while we were called onstage and introduced as the Annie Mothers.

Then began a fun time of choosing and matching by the audience. Annie and the Orphans sat on the edge of the stage and the mothers lined up behind them. One Orphan would stand, and the students would match her with a chosen mother.

When finished, the stage manager said, "Will the real mothers now stand beside their real daughters?" No one moved. Each Orphan has been correctly matched by the audience with her real mother, including Annie, who was my daughter Louanne. One Orphan, Jessica Newell, had her grandmother there as her guardian, and even they were correctly matched.

The audience applauded with glee for their correct selection, making a nice memory for all the Los Angeles stage company Annie Mothers. It was our first time on stage, and we finally were recognized for who we really were!

LORENE CAROL EVANS toured with her daughter Louanne in the 2nd National in 1979 and later in the 1st National in 1981. AP is grateful to Ms. Evans for sharing with us a remembrance of her days as an Annie mom, and we invite any other Annie guardians to send in some touring memories for our "I Remember Annie" column.

---

FAN CLUBS

ANDREA McARDLE Fan Club - Chris White, 1010 Elm Street, St. Charles, IL 60174

D.G.I.F. (DEBBIE GIBSON International Fan) Club, Box 489, Merrick, NY 11566

---

PLEASE NOTE AP's CHANGE OF ADDRESS!

I am still working at the same place at AT&T in New Jersey, but I have recently moved over the state line into nearby Pennsylvania. So from now on you can write to AP care of:

JON MERRILL  
ANNIE PEOPLE  
517 NORTH FENWICK STREET  
ALLENTOWN, PA 18103



Submitted by Donna Gaffney

August 30, 1990 - LAUREN GAFFNEY and CHELSEA at the World Trade Center Lunchtime Preview of Annie 2, where Lauren sang a few songs from the show. Here they pose with MARTIN CHARNIN.



Submitted by Cynthia Moser

MONICA LEE GRADISCHEK  
Idlewild Park  
Ligonier, PA

Jon Merrill  
Annie People  
517 North Fenwick Street  
Allentown, PA 18103

CompuServe 73677,135

Little Orphan  
**Annie**