

"Koo Koo The Bird Girl"

Minnie Woolsey was born in 1880 with Virchow-Seckel Syndrome, also known as bird-headed dwarfism. The syndrome is characterized by a small head, stunted growth, a beak-like nose, receding jaw, as well as some mental limitations. The syndrome also left Minnie mostly bald and nearly blind. Minnie spent her formative years in an insane asylum, until, as the story goes, a show woman rescued her from asylum life to join circus life. She became known as "Koo Koo The Bird Girl", a sideshow act in the Sells-Floto Circus...a circus owned by Bonfils and Tammen, the men who also owned the Denver Post.