

# TALL MISS ELLA EWING

She Began This Life as an Ordinary Sized Baby in the State of Missouri.

## BEGAN TO GROW AT SEVEN.

And Did Not Stop Growing Until She Got to be "the Tallest Woman on Earth"—Handy with Her Needle and Likes Music.

There is nothing fraudulent about Miss Ella Ewing, who is announced at Barnum & Bailey's "Greatest Show" as the "tallest woman on earth." Miss Ewing looks tall as she stands in the ring with little Peter, the midget, gamboling around, and she looks tall as she sits on the big chair, where she stays during the time the circus is in progress, but to realize her height the ordinary mortal must stand beside her. A six-foot man would have a humiliating sense of littleness to find himself looking up and up to catch the expression of her lips as she talks.

"God save the Queen!" ejaculated an old lady on the street the other day in mingled surprise and terror as Miss Ewing passed her. That is something the way the ordinary mortal feels beside the tallest woman on earth.

Miss Ewing is 8 feet 4 inches in height, and has a frame large in proportion, but she started in life in an even more humble way than many of the people she has gone so far ahead of in her upward climb. She was a seven and a half pound baby when she was born, and she remained an ordinary plump little maiden until she was seven years old. Then she began to grow. At ten she was very tall; at fifteen she was taller than her mother, and at eighteen she stooped in going through the doors of her home and the houses of her neighbors, and admitted 7 feet 8½ inches of womanhood.

It was then that she became a professional. Letters had been pouring in upon the family, and at last it was agreed that she might appear in public. But Miss Ewing did not like it a bit at first, and it was two months before she could become reconciled to being an object of curiosity to strangers.

Why she is so tall she does not know. Her father is taller than the average of men, measuring 6 feet 1, and her mother at 5 feet 5½ inches is perhaps a little taller than the average of women, but nowhere in the family has there been any one abnormally tall, as far as is known.

### Some of Her Accomplishments.

Miss Ewing was born in Lewis County, Mo., and her home now is a few miles out of Gorim, in the same State. She was brought up like the average young woman whose father is a farmer, and she does everything that every one else does in the way of work and amusements, she says. She likes to read, and plays the guitar and other musical instruments, sews and cooks, makes butter, and can milk the cow. She hunts eggs, too, when she is at home, and rides horseback, and her friends say her riding habit is her most becoming gown. She used to dance, but they have given up dancing in her neighborhood now, and when they go out to spend the evening they play parcheesi and other games.

"She embroiders beautifully," says Miss Ewing's cousin, a pretty young woman, who is with her now. "She makes the most beautiful doilies I ever saw, and she is making a patchwork quilt, the Tree of Life, the leaves in green, the trunk and branches in brown, and the groundwork in white."

"I expect mamma"—she pronounces the word "mommer"—"the last of next week," said Miss Ewing to a reporter. "She has always been with me ever since I have been on exhibition, but she has been sick with pneumonia and could not come. She worries about me when I am so far away. It is 1,200 miles."

It is not altogether so convenient being tall. A good housekeeper will realize the advantages it might have in the ability it gives to reach high shelves, and the hen who stowed away her eggs in some high nook in the barn finds her secret discovered if Miss Ewing is around, but these few advantages have a greater number of disadvantages to offset them.

### Has Chairs Made for Her.

For instance, there is no ordinary chair in which Miss Ewing can sit in comfort. When she joined the circus this season she sent Mr. Bailey the dimensions of her chairs at home, and he had one made, which she uses when she is at the circus. The house she now occupies at home was made to suit her dimensions. It is like the house which the children read about. There are chairs for the papa and mamma and the visitors of the ordinary size, and then there is the great big chair for the only child of the family, who is the "tallest woman on earth."

Actually Miss Ewing has four chairs at home made for her, and a bed, which is of comfortable length for her 8 feet and 4 inches. The ceilings of the house are 12 feet high, and the doors measure 9 feet. She has grown accustomed to stooping in ordinary houses.

At hotels she has to make the best of the accommodations. She uses the chairs as they are provided, but the beds are impossible. But that is not so difficult a matter to arrange. Two wide beds are put together, and it is easy to sleep crosswise on them.

It is expensive in the way of materials to be tall, for not less than 30 yards of silk will make Miss Ewing a gown. Her gowns are all made by her dressmaker at home, "Mistress Dolly Wilson," Miss Ewing calls her. She cuts her goods according to the ideas of her large customer, and stands on a chair while she pins and pulls and snips and takes in and lets out after the fashion of dressmakers.

There are no sizes and numbers to Miss Ewing's gloves and shoes. The latter are made for her in St. Louis, and the former in New York.

"See the difference between the size of your hand and mine," said Miss Ewing to a woman visitor. The visitor's hand was not small, but the hand of the tall woman seemed four times as large.

### Peculiarities of Peter.

Near the chair on the platform where Miss Ewing sits are the chairs of Peter the Small. Peter and Miss Ewing represent the antipodes of size. Peter is said to weigh six and a half pounds. It is not necessary to have chairs made for him, for any doll's chair would be large enough. Peter is seventeen. He has the expression of a grown person, but like a child, he runs continually. He seems to have discovered the secret of perpetual motion. He is never still for a moment.

"He is just like that all day long," said Miss Ewing, "and he lies awake playing for an hour or more after he has gone to bed. He boards at the same place we do, and the other night we were invited in to have tea. Peter had been put to bed, and there he lay pulling the bed clothes over his head and then putting them down again. We girls laughed, and he thought it amused us, so he kept on playing for as much as an hour."

### Sorosis's Memorial Day.

Sorosis will celebrate her annual memorial day to-morrow at the Waldorf. This is a day which the club began to celebrate a few years ago and has continued every year since. It is the day when Sorosis honors the memory of her departed members. There have been several deaths in the club circle this past year.