

## Exploring the Cemetery – Magic in the Cemetery!

No, magical things à la Harry Potter aren't happening. But there is a magician and his wife/assistant buried there, Clint and Millie Riedel.

Millie Storm was the daughter of George and Lillian (Miller) Storm. She set out for Rocky Springs one day and met Clint Reidel on the merry-go-round. Clint had grown up in Lancaster and had always been fascinated by magic tricks. Millie was fascinated by Clint, and eight months later, in 1925, they eloped to Elkton, Maryland. He was 17; she was 16. It only lasted 66 years.

After their marriage, Clint and Millie borrowed \$85 and bought a tent which they could set up wherever crowds gathered. They also took their "Tent of Mystery" to fire companies for a 60/40 split with the firefighters! During these years, Clint honed his skills, and Millie learned how to be a magician's assistant.

For five years they traveled around the Lancaster/Lebanon/Berks/Chester area. But given the chance to join a large carnival, they declined, sold the tent, and Clint returned to his career in sign painting. The magic continued on nights and weekends, turning into a two-hour show that was performed about 100 times a year for 20 years. They retired in 1960.



Clint and Millie's success may be due, in part, to having developed their act in Lancaster. In his book, Clint stated that Lancaster could give a "devil-of-a-time" to performers. If a show could make it there, it could make it anywhere. He recalls leaving one show early to stand in the lobby and listen to the audience as they left. According to Clint, "One old guy told his wife, 'I liked the show. When that fellow got out of the coat (strait jacket), I darn near clapped my hands.' "

In 1988 the American Magic Company published a book compiled by James M. Klein entitled *The Magic of Riedel*. Written by Clint Riedel, it details their long and distinguished career and reveals the secrets to many of their tricks. It is a compendium for anyone wanting to create a show of his own.

Clint and Millie had one son, Pastor W. C.

Reidel, a/k/a "Rocky." Millie, Clint, and Millie's parents are all buried in Section 5, lot 105.