



**THE  
MAGIC  
OF  
PUPPETRY**

**By: KATHY GOOLSBY**

Recently, I interviewed, or at least tried to interview, Karl Reichenstein, a puppeteer with the Sid and Marty Krofft people who did Pufn'stuf and lots of things on the Dean Martin Show.

I have to say that I 'tried' to interview Karl because he can't seem to ever get serious and that makes it a bit difficult to tell just when he's joking or telling the truth!

I asked Karl how he got started working for the Kroffts, and he said that he was the foreman of a puppet theatre when the Kroffts suggested that he try his hand at being a puppeteer for them. He took the job and really loved it.

In his own way, Karl is a very unique person. He'll kill me for saying this, but he told me he talks to walls and water fountains a lot! I guess you could call that unique until another word comes along.

The Krofft Puppet Theatres are located in the Six Flags amusement centers (for those not familiar with Six Flags, they are something like Disneylands) and the Six Flags Over Mid-America in St. Louis will feature 'The Bugaloos' next season while the Six Flags Over Georgia will have 'Dollies Follies.' The Six Flags Over Texas will show 'Pufn'stuf.'

The 'Pufn'stuf' show will be about 27 minutes long and is about 95 per cent backlight. Seven puppeteers are needed to work the show, which will include trees running loose in the audience and a big, patriotic ending.

Getting back to Karl, I learned that between the 1500 shows they did last year, the puppeteers made repairs and practiced.

It would seem that working with Sid and Marty Krofft Productions would be very interesting indeed. You meet some very interesting people, too. Karl met and talked with Jack Wild, Martha Raye, Billie Hayes and The Bugaloos.

A special thanks to Karl for taking the time to talk to me. He's a great guy with a great sense of humor. I sincerely hope he will be among the puppeteers again this season!