

Question: What do the following have in common with each other AND our Village of Clarkson?



Marilyn Monroe



Linda Darnell



Carmen Miranda



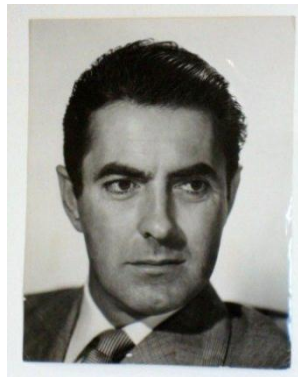
Marlene Dietrich



Sonja Henie



Anne Baxter



Tyrone Power



Betty Grable

Put on your Thinking Caps. There's no time to lose! The first **THREE** winning entries will receive a gift certificate from one of the following friendly merchants!

1. A cherry Coke at the back counter in Dale Gentzler's drugstore!
2. An order of tater tots from the Purple Palace drive-in!
3. A red beer at Bukacek's Tavern (age restrictions may apply... but probably not)!

The Shocking Answer on the Next Page....

Answer: All these photographs were taken by Frank Powolny, a famous Hollywood studio photographer who grew up in Clarkson.



Frank Powolny was born in Vienna, Austria on August 13, 1901 and died on January 5, 1986 in California. He immigrated to Clarkson with his parents, Frank and Marie Powolny, in 1913. Around 1923, Frank left for Hollywood with his brother Lad to join the nascent movie industry. As chief portrait and still photographer at 20th Century Fox from 1923 to 1966, Frank Powolny captured thousands of stars and starlets in studio and action photos that ended up in newspapers, magazines and theater lobbies worldwide.

Here is his obituary from the Los Angeles Times:

Snapped Famed WWII Betty Grable Pinup Photographer Frank Powolny Dies at 84

[January 11, 1986](#) From the Associated Press

Frank Powolny, the 20th Century Fox studio photographer who snapped a famous World War II pinup picture of Betty Grable and took one of the last shots of Marilyn Monroe, has died of a heart attack.

The Austrian-born Powolny was 84 when he died Sunday in Valencia, said his wife of 46 years, Peggy. The Newbury Park resident had been visiting his daughter when he was stricken.

As chief portrait and still photographer at 20th Century Fox from 1923 to 1966, Powolny captured thousands of stars and starlets in studio and action photos that ended up in newspapers, magazines and theater lobbies worldwide.

His subjects included Janet Gaynor, Charles Farrell, Tom Mix, Warner Baxter, Shirley Temple, Alice Faye, Jeanne Crain, Lana Turner, Gene Tierney, Humphrey Bogart, Bing Crosby, Jennifer Jones, Joan Collins and Ann-Margret.

In 1962, Powolny took the last known still photographs of Marilyn Monroe on the set of "Something's Got to Give," a week before her death.

But he was best known for the pinup of Betty Grable that GIs carried into battle during World War II. The photo, showing Grable in swimsuit and pumps and peeking coyly over her shoulder, made Ripley's "Believe It or Not" after 5 million prints had been made.

During a 1982 interview, he recalled that it came about after a regular shooting session. "I asked Betty if she'd like to have a back shot, just to be different," he said. "She said, 'Yes,' and began to clown around. 'You want it like this?' she asked, posing. And I said, 'Yeah.' "I made only two shots of that pose. It was the second shot that became famous."

Powolny immigrated to the United States when he was 13 and attended school in Clarkson, Neb. During World War I, he served for a year as an artilleryman in the U.S. Army. Survivors include his wife, a daughter, Martha Doane of Valencia, and two grandsons.

Frank's father (Frank Sr.) left Vienna with his family in 1913, and on January 6, 1914 he applied for a permit to build a photo gallery in Clarkson. The Powolny Photo Studio operated for many years - the old tin-sided building is still standing on Clarkson's Main Street across from the library (although it may now be across the street from its original 1914 location). Despite its

run-down look today, it was a classy studio in its heyday, with nice chairs, props, and backgrounds.



How many of you remember being inside this building? How many family portraits and wedding photos were made in this studio? I don't know when it finally went out of business, but I'm pretty sure that I had my picture taken there in the early 1950s as part of a wedding party.

The Powolnys were a large family – 8 boys and 2 girls. Frank Jr. was the oldest; his siblings were Ladislav (5/19/1903-12/28/1999), Ignac (7/26/1904-10/5/1998) Ludvig (8/18/1905-2/1924), Bill (4/24/1911-3/20/2001), Eric (5/13/1913-5/5/1991), George (12/19/1917-8/18/2009), Joseph (1/18/1919-12/27/1999), Angeline (aka Mary?), and Olga (2/2/1923-6/2011). Bill served in the Army Air Forces during World War II. I'm told Bill went to France to study art, then came back to paint signs in Clarkson; he designed the official Clarkson Czech Festival logo of the two dancers. Eric worked in Omaha for a while, then became Clarkson's cop/night watchman/door checker. Ignac is the only one of the family that I remember – he operated a television repair

shop in the old Powolny studio building. He'd replace the tubes in your Sylvania or Zenith television set, if your family was willing to give it up for a week or so.

Ludvig Powolny died tragically as a young man. Here is a story from the February 7, 1924 edition of the Colfax County Press:

This noon we were horrified upon the receipt of the sad news that our young friend, Ludwig Powolny, is dead. His untimely and unexpected departure comes as a distinct surprise to all who had known him as it is only a few days ago that he was seen on our streets. He took sick suddenly on Friday, his illness being due to blood-poisoning of the entire system. In spite of the attention given him by several physicians, there was nothing that medical science could do for the young man. On Sunday, Ludwig is said to have been around the house and it was thought that all would be well in short time. These predictions, however, have not matured and the patient took a decided change for the worse. On Monday, his condition was again pronounced as very serious and since, the boy had a terrible struggle. The patient fought bravely and although a strong young man he soon gave out and surrendered to his enemy. The end came this noon, Thursday, at the family home in the west part of town.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Powolny of Clarkson, his father being engaged in photographic business here. He was a bright young man and at the time of this death was not quite 19 years of age. He was born in Austria-Hungary on the 18th of August 1905, and came to this country about ten years ago. He worked at odd jobs after leaving the school and for the past several months was employed at the A.J. Karel & Son's store. We have known Ludwig since his arrival in Clarkson and have always found him a good-hearted and an honest young man and it is too bad that his stay here culminated at a time when he was to enjoy the best years of his life.

He leaves besides his parents seven brothers, Frank, Ladislav, Ignac, William, Erick, George and Joseph, and two sisters, Mary and Olga. The oldest two boys of the Powolny family are in California where they have employment in the moving picture industry.

The funeral will be held on Sunday forenoon at 10 o'clock from the Bukacek undertaking parlors. The remains will be taken to the opera house and thence will be escorted to the last resting place in the cemetery adjoining Clarkson.

George Powolny was born on December 19, 1917 in Clarkson and died on August 18, 2009 in Seattle. His obituary says that "George was a devoted husband and father who was very proud to have served in the Army during WWII. In 1943 he married his beloved Rosemary, and became a sheet metal fabricator."

Olga (Powolny) Strong was born in Clarkson, Nebraska, February 2, 1923, to Frank and Marie Powolny. She graduated from Clarkson High School in 1941, attended Wayne State College, and later earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Chadron State College in 1969. She was married June 21, 1946 to Rex L. Strong in Gordon, Nebraska. She lived in Gordon until her death in June 2011. Her obituary notes that "Olga was a passionate and

dedicated elementary school teacher for approximately 25 years. She was very supportive of the Gordon community, and was a member of: Gordon Presbyterian Church; Gordon School Board; Gordon City Library Board; Rebekah Lodge; and Eastern Star. She was the leader of Campfire Girls and 4H Clubs for her children.”

And the Three Winners, in order of receipt of correct entries, are:

1. Rolly Goodman – With mathematical exactness, Mr. Goodman approached the problem by constructing a Venn diagram, and in the intersection of the consequent aggregation of 8 finite sets he found Frank.
2. Pat Wacha – Herself a photographer, and with Hollywood connections, Pat quickly surmised the correct answer, and provided some of the information about Frank’s siblings.
3. Mavis Stears – From her lighthouse overlooking Puget Sound, Mavis sees all...

The winners can pick up their gift certificates at the Dobry Station, at the intersection of Hwys. 15 and Old 91.

Honorable Mention: Paul Filipi and Joan Lydick also guessed correctly (but too late to win any bogus prizes).

Best Wrong Answer: My sister-in-law, Bernice Cada, looked at the 8 photos and suggested that for these women as in Clarkson, there is only one good looking guy per seven women!

Finally, just to show that Frank didn’t only take cheesecake studio photos, here is a still photograph attributed to him from the silent movie *Sunrise* that has some artsy qualities:



And that’s all I have to say about that.

Glenn