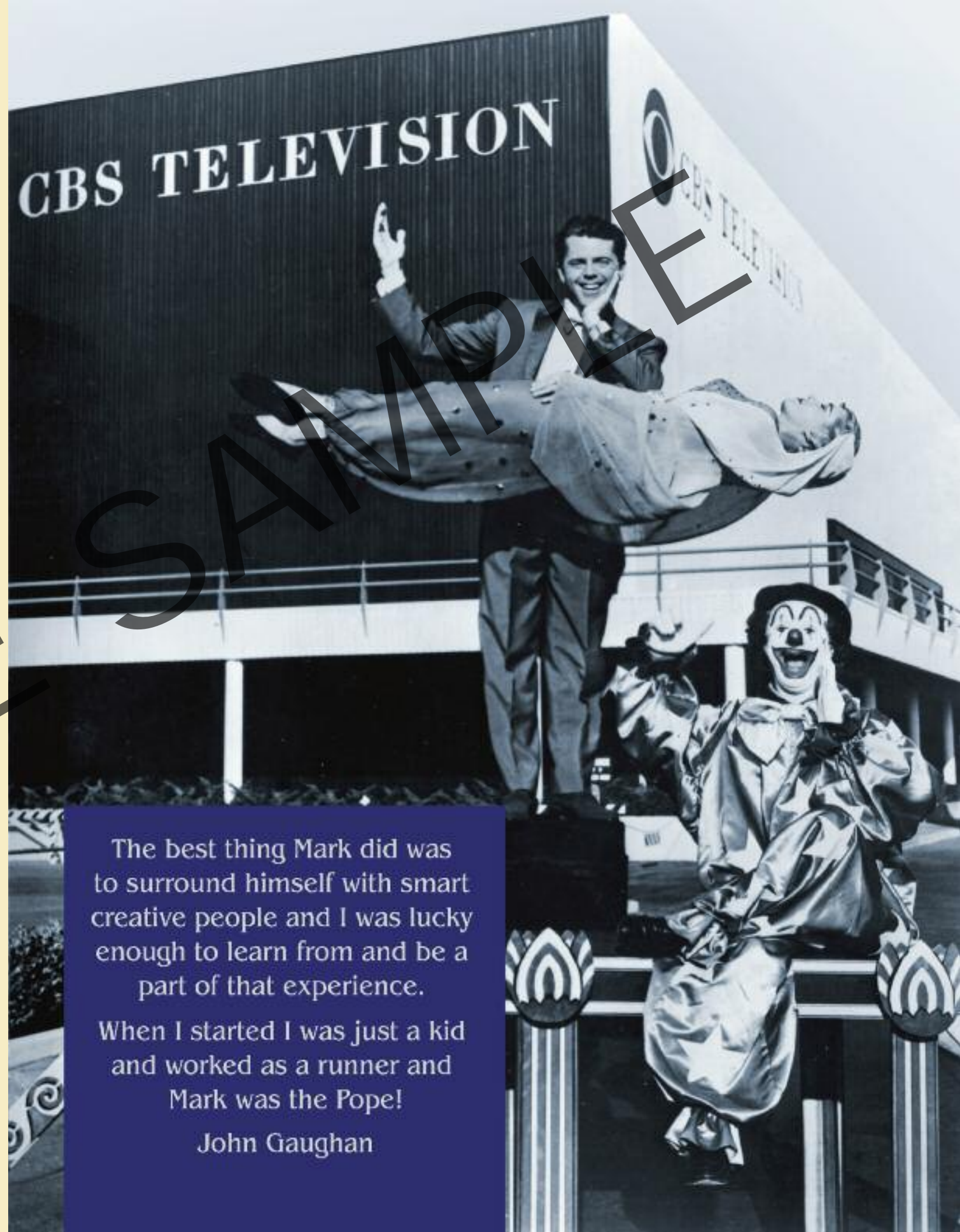


That terrific photo of Dad floating Mom in front of the CBS studios. It was a beautiful day, and Johnny Gaughan was working so hard to set up the prop and get the electric motor to work so the trick would move up and float Mom. I was always fascinated how the gimmick was hidden and worked in that beautiful illusion. It is to this day my favorite effect from five decades ago.

Although I was very young, I was always fascinated with the technical things of the show. I much preferred sitting in the control booth of the TV studio watching Andy Sidaris direct the taping than performing on stage. And the huge Ampex 2" reel-to-reel quadraplex tape decks had me mesmerized. I thought it was so cool when they would edit the tape by cutting it with a razor blade and gluing the ends of the tape together. The engineers had some magic liquid that they would paint on the tape to see the magnetic pulse lines so they could edit the tape and keep it in video sync.

Those were some great days and it provided quite a foundation for my later life as a theatrical producer. I never realized that all those times that I hated going to the fabric shop and then to the wardrobe lady's house where the costumes for the show were made would later pay off with my creating beautiful costumes for my own grand scale

Chinese acrobat shows. Or that watching the cameramen work in the studio would translate later to directing the recording of my shows. It was a truly unique experience. I just wish I really could have ridden that little train every Saturday morning!



The best thing Mark did was to surround himself with smart creative people and I was lucky enough to learn from and be a part of that experience.

When I started I was just a kid and worked as a runner and Mark was the Pope!

John Gaughan