# Lobster Boy: The Extraordinary Life and Tragic Death of Horace Greeley Taft

Horace Greeley Taft was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in 1865. He was born with a rare congenital condition called ectrodactyly, which caused his hands and feet to be deformed. His hands were lobster-like in appearance, with two large claws and no fingers. His feet were also deformed, with only two toes on each foot.

Taft's parents were poor and could not afford to provide him with proper medical care. As a result, he was often ridiculed and ostracized by other children. He eventually ran away from home and joined a circus, where he became a performer. He was billed as "Lobster Boy" and quickly became one of the most popular attractions in the circus.





Taft toured with the circus for many years, and he became a wealthy man. He also married and had children. However, his personal life was not as happy as his professional life. He was often depressed and lonely, and he struggled with alcoholism. He eventually died in 1938 at the age of 73.

Taft's story is a tragic one, but it is also a fascinating one. He was a man who was born with a rare and debilitating condition, but he was able to overcome his challenges and achieve success. He was a talented performer and a kind and generous man. He was also a pioneer for people with disabilities, and he helped to change the way that people with disabilities are viewed.

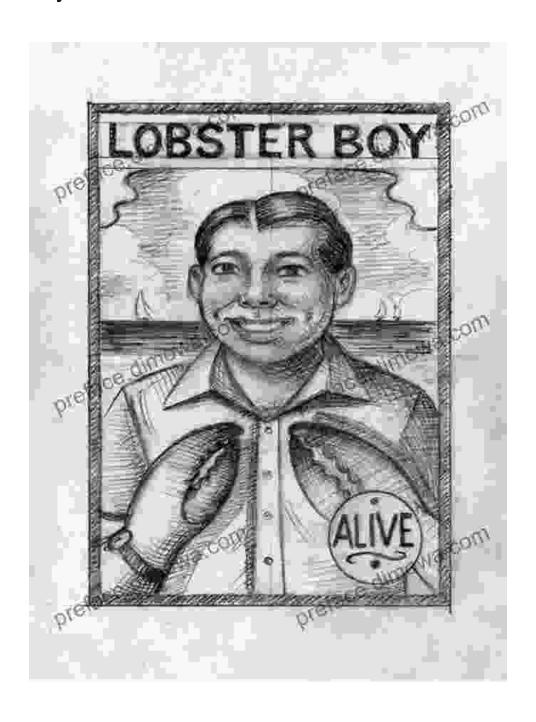
Taft's story is one that should be remembered and celebrated. He was a man who overcame adversity and achieved great things. He was a true inspiration.

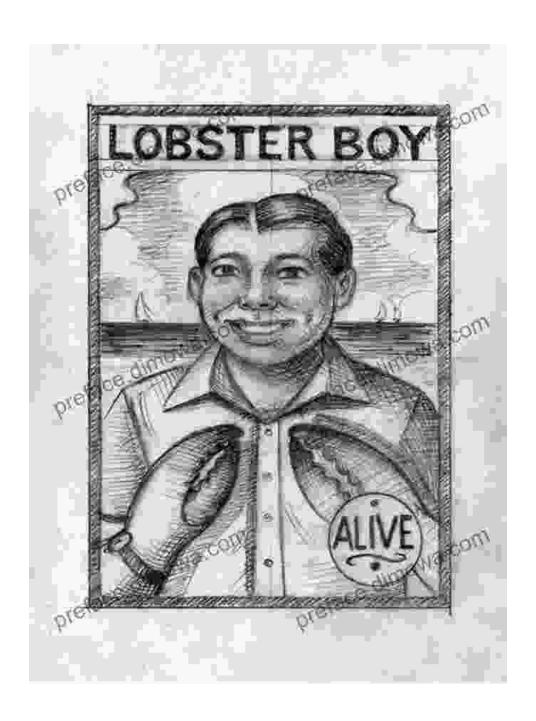
#### **Additional Information**

- Taft was not the only person with ectrodactyly. There have been other cases of people being born with lobster-like claws. However, Taft was one of the most famous people with this condition.
- Taft's deformity was caused by a mutation in the HOXD13 gene. This gene is responsible for the development of the hands and feet.
- Taft's parents were both healthy, and there is no known family history of ectrodactyly. It is believed that Taft's deformity was a spontaneous mutation.
- Taft was a skilled performer. He was able to use his claws to play the piano and to write. He also had a strong singing voice.
- Taft was a generous man. He often donated money to charities and to people in need.

Taft's death was a tragic loss. He was a talented performer and a kind and generous man. He will be remembered as a pioneer for people with disabilities.

### Image Gallery





Horace Greeley Taft, Lobster Boy



### Video



#### **Book**

Lobster Boy: The Extraordinary Life and Tragic Death of Horace Greeley Taft is a fascinating and well-written book. The author, Christopher Routledge, does an excellent job of telling Taft's story in a way that is both informative and engaging. The book is full of interesting details about Taft's life, and it also provides a valuable insight into the history of disability in America.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in learning more about Horace Greeley Taft or about the history of disability.

#### **Buy the Book**



#### Lobster Boy by Laura Wacha

★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 967 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

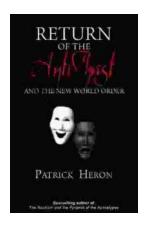
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Word Wise : Enabled

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