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Kirkman native

Lew Anderson final TV's "Clarabell the Clown"

NEW YORK - Lewis "Lew" Anderson, 86, who captivated young baby boomers as the Howdy Doody Show's final Clarabell the Clown, died May 14, in Hawthorne, New York. The musician and actor died of complications of prostate cancer.

Anderson was born on May 7, 1922 in Kirkman.

As the longtime unspeaking Clarabell, Anderson broke the clown's silence in the show's final episode in 1960. With trembling lips and a visible tear in his eye, he spoke the show's final words: "Goodbye, kids." Though Ander-

son was not the only man to play "Buffalo Bob" Smith's mute sidekick, he was the best, Smith said in his memoir. The first to play the mute clown was Bob Keeshan, who later became known as Captain Kangaroo.

With the "Peanut Gallery" looking on, Anderson used bicycle horns to give yes and no answers.

He is survived by his wife Peggy, son Christopher and his wife Margaret of Ridgefield, CT, son Lewis, Jr. and his wife Kathy Cohen-Anderson of Providence, RI; step daughters Lorie George and her husband David Klein of Danbury, CT, Halley Leffler and husband Michael of Sandusky, OH.