

THE CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bandwagon

MARCH
APRIL
1960

VOLUME 4
NUMBER 2

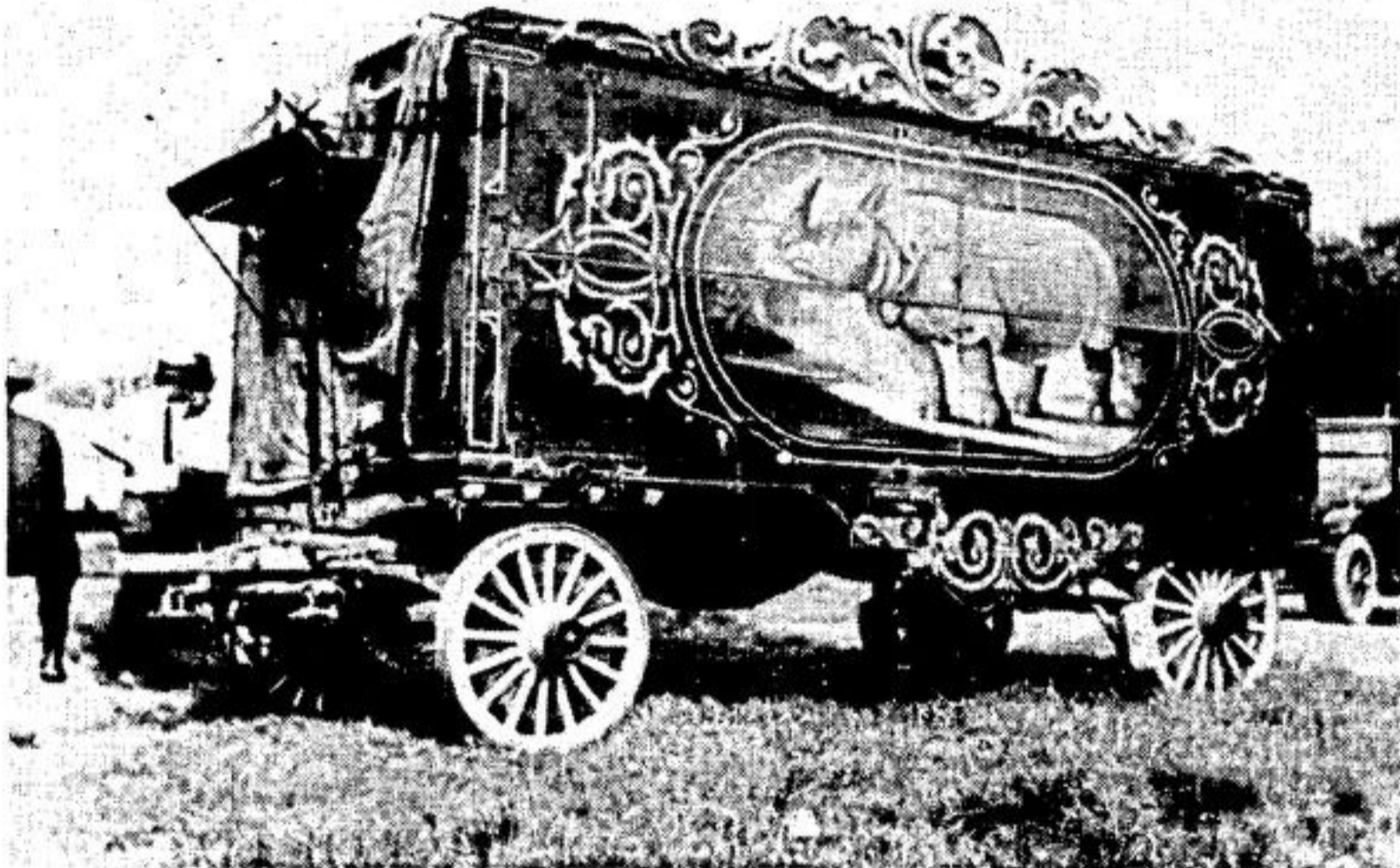


1960

CIRCUS OF THE YEAR

CLYDE BEATTY - COLE BROS. CIRCUS

Bill Woodcock's Circus Album



This photo was taken around 1920 on the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. The Ringling Barnum dens of that era were beautifully painted and gold-leafed. This cage carried the male Indian "Armored" Rhinoceros named Bill.

The Barnum show first exhibited Bill around 1907 and he died at Fort Worth, Texas during the 1926 season.

KELLY MILLER

Kelly Hans Miller, 46, former co-owner of the Al G. Kelly & Miller Bros. Circus, died in Hugo, Oklahoma, February 20. Funeral services in Hugo on February 23. He is survived by his widow, Dale; a daughter Mrs. Robert (Karen Kay) Murray; his father Obert O.; and a brother Does R. Miller.

Kelly Miller, who was little known by the public, choosing to remain almost anonymous on the show, had joined his father and brother in founding the present Kelly-Miller show in 1937. Prior to that he had been with his father's dog and pony show out of Smith Center, Kansas.

It was Kelly Miller who designed and built most of the specialized motorized circus equipment for which the show has been famous. Among his inventions are the Miller-Sanguin canvas spool truck; a semi-trailer for transporting the giraffe; and a mobile maintenance unit that made possible re-building a truck on the lot.

Kelly had retired from active participation in the circus in 1958, having sold his interest to his brother Does. He was an active Mason, being a member of the Consistory and the Shrine.

It was my pleasure to have known Kelly Miller. He was always glad to see me, and to exchange a few words with me. I will miss him.

R.C.K.

GOOD-BY, FELIX, AND THANKS

Humor—which no wise man has ever tried to define in any conclusive manner—is usually created in one of two ways: Either the humorist makes fun of someone or something else, or he makes fun of himself. Felix Adler, who died this week in New York, was one of the latter sort. He didn't start out to be a clown; he started as a circus acrobat. But whether from lack of seasoning (he was 9 at the time) or lack of talent, he fell all over himself and thus began a great career. For people laughed at his unpremeditated antics and, in his words, "I turned clown and scored a howling success."

During 50 years with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey he became known as the King of Clowns. There must be millions of us older ones who remember seeing him as kids, with a flashing red bulb where his nose should be, and generally a little pig trailing along, hopping on its hind legs and doing tricks. Like so many great human beings, Adler was devoted to his animals as individuals; when they outgrew their usefulness he carefully found them good homes along the right of way, and inquired for them by name on future visits.

Adler was not of the Pagliacci persuasion; under the grease-paint smile was a genuine smile, for he was a happy

man, and so, he said, are most circus clowns. "I have never seen a clown suffering from a broken heart," he said, adding, "I've seen a lot of them broke, though."

That the death of Felix Adler should receive more impressive notice in most of the country's newspapers than the passing of many a dignitary of politics or industry is not at all remarkable. For he stood at the top of a profession that has, through the years, made a tremendous contribution to the nation's well-being, and it is time that its value was recognized. We think it quite possible that in the years just ahead the fate of the world may depend, not so much upon the earnest pontificating of the striped pants brigade, but upon the ability of people to relax, now and then, and enjoy the spiritual tonic of a good belly-laugh. Adler's talents as a dispenser of that tonic will be sorely missed.

—Chicago Sun-Times, 2/5/60

THE CIRCUS IN INDIANA

(Compiled by F. C. Fisher,
Chalmer Condon and George L. Chindahl)

Editor's Note: Re-printed from Aug. 1956 Bandwagon by request.

CIRCUS QUARTERS

AMBIA	-----	Boughton
ANDERSON	-----	Ketrow
BLOOMINGTON	-----	Gentry
BRAZIL	-----	Admire
CICERO	-----	John A. Harris
CONNERSVILLE	-----	Van Amburgh, Bartine
DENVER	-----	Alderfer
EVANSVILLE	-----	Norris & Rowe
FORT WAYNE	-----	Stewart
FRANKFORT	-----	Rippel Bros., Ruffner Bros.
INDIANAPOLIS	-----	B. L. Wallace
INGALLS	-----	Eakins
KOKOMO	-----	Sipe, Dolman & Blake, Sipe's Educated Animal and Lilliputian Show
LA CROSSE	-----	Barlow
MUNCIE	-----	Hall & Long
NEW ALBANY	-----	Spalding & Rogers' Floating Palace tied up here and burned, 1865.
PERU	-----	Wallace & Co., Great Wallace, Cook & Whitby, Hagenbeck-Wallace, Robinson Famous, John Robinson, Sells-Floto, Cole Bros., Jacobs Bros.
ROCHESTER	-----	Cole Bros., Robbins Bros.
SOUTH MILFORD	-----	Barlow
SULLIVAN	-----	Bays Bros.
TERRE HAUTE	-----	Wixom
WASHINGTON	-----	Coup-Shelby
WEST BADEN	-----	Hagenbeck-Wallace, Howe's Great London, John Robinson.

SUPPLIERS

EVANSVILLE	-----	George Kratz, steam calliope manufacturer.
PERU	-----	Sullivan & Eagle, circus wagon builders Paul Kelly, menagerie animals