

TEA TIME TALK

(BY WILMA J. MARCH)

The official show season opened this week with the arrival of the Ringling Brothers circus back in this sunny state, after its 16,000-mile tour in the north throughout the summer. Two huge performances, one at Orlando and one yesterday in Tampa, closed the 1936 season and the winter headquarters at Sarasota will be "home" for a while. Trainers and animals alike love the sawdust path but Sarasota will look mighty good after a busy season of roaming over the countryside.

Sixteen hundred performers, staff and workmen of "The greatest show on earth" have the show business down to the greatest degree of efficiency. Just how quickly they can get ready for a show and afterwards pull up stakes and fly in the night has always been a mystery to most of us.

Every seat in the huge tent was taken and thousands could find standing space only. But think of the hundreds of thousands who have seen the show during the last eight months? Leaving Sarasota last April, the circus proceeded to Madison Square Gardens in New York, where it remained for almost a month. It played for one week in Boston, Philadelphia and Brooklyn and nine days in Chicago. The show was presented in 137 cities across the continent. The ticket sales show that business is on the up-turn and that the show people may receive a bonus shortly.

There are many new acts, several of which are headliners, such as the Indian Village of Col. Tim McCoy, western star who had Sioux and Blackfoot warriors encamped in tepees. Then the herd of African pigmy elephants, tiny tuskers that are full grown and middle-aged, yet no bigger than shetland ponies, is one of the most unique features the circus has ever presented.

Everyone went kiddish again yesterday and milled through the crowds feeding peanuts to the monkeys and elephants; holding their breath over the thrilling and sensational acts of the performers. Seals, elephants, monkeys and lions roared and squealed as if they knew it was the last lap of the journey and that home with its old, familiar stalls would soon be in sight.

It is such fun and so interesting, to pay a visit to the winter quarters of the circus, and to see the performers training the animals; to see the patience which they have in doing over and over again the stunts to make perfection and efficiency, so that an error may not happen. The saw-dust trail is a gay life but it has its heart throbs, its sadness, its joys and its pathos too.

The children of circus people have their teacher and school is conducted each day similarly to the regular schools, except on a much smaller scale. And no doubt those children learn much first-hand, that other children only see as attractions at the circus performance. They learn the habits, traits and characteristics of all the animals. This all proves to us that it takes a world of experience and not just a course of study along specially chosen lines to make an educated person. Those who think they know so much along one line of work may be the most ignorant along some other.

When the circus and the Royal American Shows have arrived in the southland it is open-house in Florida. Tampa this week had open-house to thousands of show folk, who congregate in this state for the warm climate and the contact with other folks of their own calling. The world's largest circus and the world's largest midway had really come to town yesterday in Tampa. The Royal American shows winter in Tampa and do their repair work and map out their plans for the next season. Four hundred workmen will be employed with a weekly pay roll of \$5000 during the coming winter when their \$100,000 building and repair program will be carried out. By Florida Fair time this must be completed so that their midway will be ready for it and to go on the road for the other various Fairs and attractions throughout the State. Then they trek northward, dividing their ranks to this section of the country and that, some of it going over to Canada for

the Fairs and the Canadian National Exhibition. The Royal American left Florida last April making a continent-wide trip with an equipment carried on 36 specially constructed 72-foot steel cars followed by eight coaches carrying more than 500 employees and then in addition there were five coaches of baggage.

This type of entertainment is something which the radio as yet cannot duplicate or take the place of. The tremendous cost of transporting and erecting the equipment for such shows would make it unreasonable for folks to see it at home by means of television. The show folks could not afford to have it broadcast without ample returns.

The publicity manager of the Royal American Shows, and who held a similar position with the Midway Shows, the Ruben and Cherry Company at the Canadian National Exhibition for some years, is not with these travelling shows now, but is Master of Ceremonies at the Tampa Terrace Hotel, broadcasting the floor shows and dinner musicales each evening. He has given up the saw-dust trail for the carpeted aisles, where the elite of the city gather to dance and dine. Yet I venture to say there are times when he gets uneasy and restless for the old life, where he, Frank Wincheil, was a hale fellow well-meant among the hundreds of travelling entertainers. His familiar, light step, with the hint of a spring in it and his genial smile both give him a grace that is attractive anywhere. Then too his voice is one which is not easily forgotten and for that reason especially he is making a grand success of his present work. Frank is one of those people who worked hard to get where he is and he doesn't forget that others have ambitions too. He lends a helping hand wherever he can and no matter where he sees you he is never too busy to stop and have a chat. But that is typical of most all show people. They learn to overcome pettiness and jealousies, for they soon know that everyone can't be on the top rung of the ladder.

SAUGEEEN JUNCTION

We extend our sympathy to Mrs. C. Doupe and children in their sad bereavement.

Mr. James Pritchard left Saturday for Alcouve, Que., where he will spend the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sewell visited one day recently at Mr. Wm. Reid's on the Durham road.

Mrs. Ila Cooper and children have returned home after a week's visit at Hillsburg.

Mr. Alvin White has gone to Toronto to look for work.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Allen of Spring Hill visited one evening recently at Mr. Joe Sewell's.

Mrs. Robt. Little of Orangeville visited last Sunday at Mr. Joseph Badgerow's.

DORNOCH

The friends and neighbours gathered at the vacant house owned by Mr. and Mrs. A. Livingstone to honour Mr. and Mrs. Howard Smith, who were recently married, with a miscellaneous shower. Mrs. J. L. Corlett and Mrs. A. Livingstone unwrapped the gifts. The names and humorous verses were read by Mrs. Art. McIntosh. All then joined in singing "For they are jolly good fellows". The evening was spent in playing cards and dancing. Lunch was served by the ladies.

Mrs. John Sweeney went to Detroit on Saturday to visit for some time with friends.

Messrs. Will and John Vasey arrived home on Tuesday, the former from Seaforth and the latter from Toronto.

Mr. and Mrs. Exie Sweeney and daughter, Shelia, spent Sunday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Vasey.

Miss Vera Bolen visited on Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. A. D. McIntyre at Flesherton.

Mrs. John Birt, Ronald, Margaret and Marion spent Wednesday with friends here.

Miss Susie McIntosh is spending a month with friends at Rockwood.

Mr. Ed. Pratt of Durham is busily engaged in drilling a well for Mr. Wm. Hodgson Jr.

IN DAYS OF YORE

[Continued from page three.]

On Saturday evening last, Mr. James Vause sr., con. 2, S.D.R., Artemesia, met with sore bereavement in the death of his beloved wife, who succumbed to a neuralgic seizure of the heart of but a few hours duration. The largely attended funeral took place to Cedar Grove Cemetery, South Line, on Monday afternoon. Her husband and four sons survive, also one sister, the wife of Mr. Robt. Oliver.

A marriage of interest to many of our readers took place at the home of the bride's sister at Toronto Junction on the 4th inst., when Mrs. Mariah Kipp, recently of San Jose, Calif., became the bride of Mr. W. Hanley of Ottawa. The bride is a daughter of Mrs. John Osborne of this place and the groom, who has been for twenty years in the post office department at Ottawa, is a son of Mr. Edward Hanley of Osprey.

Mr. Oscar Phillips, who has been in the employ of W. Moore, harness-maker, the past three years, left on Tuesday to take a good situation in Toronto. Mr. W. Ludlow has succeeded Oscar at the bench.

Kimberley

Mr. Harold Kerr of Epping was the guest of his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. McConnell, of the suburbs.

Mr. and Mrs. George McCartney of St. Vincent spent Monday with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McCullough.

Miss Ethel Fawcett left recently for an extended visit with friends in Ladner, B.C.

We are pleased to report that Mr. and Mrs. John Weber jr., who went to the North-West a few years ago, have been very prosperous. Mr. Weber has retired from farming and has accepted the position of manager of a large business in Moose Jaw, Sask.

Berkeley

John Love has sold his farm, adjoining the village, to Thos. Rowe of this place.

J. H. Marshall, who was C.P.R. agent here, has been promoted to Linwood, Ont.

Mr. McDonald of Artemesia has rented the Bateman farm and moved to it a few days ago.

EAST BERKELEY

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Connell and family were week-end visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Connell. Mrs. Levens and son, Howard, of Owen Sound spent a day recently at the same home.

Mr. Melvin A. Steer and son, Fred., of Edmonton, Alta., are visiting with the former's mother and family. This is his first return to Ontario since his return from the Great War, where he was wounded twice, once at Passchendale and once at Combra.

Some of our neighbors have invested in new cars.

Our sympathy is extended to our teacher, Miss McMullen, in the loss of a relative near Flesherton.

Mr. and Mrs. Manley Steer spent an evening recently with Mrs. John Steer.

TEMPLE HILL

Mr. Gordon Erskine, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Menary and family spent Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. Reid at Islington.

Mr. Hugh McTaggart of Sonya is spending a few weeks with his sister, Mrs. Sparling, and Mr. Russell Sparling.

Mr. and Mrs. Loren Douglas of Cheesville spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Mills and family.

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Erskine and son, Clinton, of Meaford spent Sunday with Messrs. Clifford and Gordon Erskine and families.

Mr. George Merrifield made a business trip to Owen Sound on Saturday.

Mr. George Seabrooke attended the petty jury in Owen Sound last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Mills and family spent Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. H. Hawken at Harkaway.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Sparling and daughter, Marie, spent the week-end with Mrs. McTaggart of Sonya.

Our annual Christmas tree and entertainment will be held on Tuesday, December 15.

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