

Garden Bros Circus...

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devised so that the circus could travel to smaller centres which had no large facilities and give performances whether rain or shine.

The first travelling circuses in this country were called "mud shows" because they transported their performers, animals and equipment by wagon. For a period of time, circuses took to the railroads, but they returned to the highways and today travel by truck and automobile.

Garden says he first went to work for the circus at the age of 15 and he has appeared in the centre ring many thousands of times. He is justifiably proud of his show business family and the tradition which is carried on by his children.

At the moment he is giving some thought to the 50th Anniversary of Garden Brothers which is coming up and when asked if he will ever retire, the response is "when I die". —Tradition is very hard to break, especially so when that tradition is show business and the circus!

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Garden & Shaw

Entertainers "Garden & Shaw, the Aristocrats of Comedy" pose for the photographer in Detroit during the 1920s. Later William "Bill" Gardener established a theatrical agency in Toronto known as the Canadian Vaudeville Exchange. In 1938 he founded Garden Bros. Circus which still tours throughout central and eastern Canada and the northern States. Son Ian resides locally. Bill Gardener died in 1954 but his wife, Jean (Shaw) is still living and resides in Sarasota, Florida.

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