

Shriners sponsor Clyde Brothers' circus in Midland

For a juggler, the circus is the only place to be



Now that's jumpin'

by Tom Grand
If the Midland Junior B Flyers could attract the kind of crowd that flocked to the town arena for Thursday night's showing of the Clyde Brothers' Circus, the hockey club's executive would be entertaining thoughts of applying for a National Hockey League franchise. At the very least, they'd be demanding a larger arena.

There's something magical about a circus which attracts children and adults alike. Residents from the Penetanguishene-Midland area proved to be no exception as they packed the King Street arena to the point of overflowing for the night-time show. When all the seats were taken the spectators simply lined up one, two and sometimes three rows deep on the second floor isles to catch a glimpse of the performers below.

Their eyes caught a glimpse of a little bit of everything: trained dogs leaping over six-foot-high obstacles and another riding a tiny scooter around a ring; men and women performing on the high wire and the trapeze; live tigers; playful monkeys; and of course a pair of delightfully crazy clowns.

Thursday's audience loved the show, but what about the performers themselves? What do

they think of their life as travelling entertainers?

For Pat Davison, a juggler in the Clyde Bros. Circus, it's the only life he really wants to live.

Unlike most performers who were born and raised in the circus, Pat comes from a non-circus family. But his father was a big fan of circuses, never missing one if he could help it, and somewhere along the line, Pat caught the circus fever.

By the time he began his four year stint at the University of Minnesota his mind appears to have been already made up. He was going to enter the circus.

Majoring in television and radio production seemed to be the closest thing a university offered to the circus, so that's what Pat did. He skipped classes every now and then to do some shows, (first it was a magic act, then he switched to juggling) and during the summer he'd hitch up with a circus. When he graduated in 1968 he went into the circus full time and he's been in it ever since.

According to Pat most circus performers love to entertain people.

"It's an ego thing," he says. "Most people like to perform. They like the applause. Basically I'm a shy person. It's a release to perform and do my thing."

And it is financially rewarding. "It does pay good," Pat claimed, but refused to mention an average salary. "That's something I'd rather not discuss."

The Clyde Bros. Circus, with between 25 and 30 members, exclusive of the tigers, monkeys, dogs and elephants, draws in a six figure income every week, but Pat said he really wasn't sure what the total reached.

"To be honest with you I really don't know."

In addition to the money and a chance to perform, the circus is a great place for meeting people and travelling. "You meet all kinds of people in this business," Pat said while discussing the advantages of his career. "There's a lot of characters, and you also get to travel. Last year we travelled 40,000 miles."

Why do people come to a circus? Well, according to Pat there's a host of attractions. "It's thrilling to see some people risk their lives in the animal acts. It's live, and it's very inexpensive."

The usual adult charge is \$3 for two hours of entertainment. As Pat pointed out, that's as much as you'll pay to see a movie to see pictures of people and animals on a screen.

At the circus you can see it live.



The winner!



by Ray Baker

It has been said many times that the world is getting smaller and it is, as we become more aware of each

Looking forward to planning our own future

other's problems and solutions. It's the same on a local scale, which leads me right into this week's topic of local and county planning.

Last week I mentioned that a two-day 'Meet the Province' seminar on planning was to be held in Orillia May 9 and 10 with delegates from all municipalities and cities in the county present, and an after dinner speech by Hon. W. Darcy McKeough, Treasurer of Ontario.

In the course of the conference some very interesting facts came to light which will affect all our lifestyles and those of our descendants.

First: Planning and politics are firmly intertwined. There can be no division. It's hard to be a planner without being politically aware, and vice versa, at local area, and provincial levels.

Second: This is not a bad thing. Past practice has shown that a mix of elected and appointed members to any planning board is necessary in order to see the overall picture from groundwork right through to financing.

Third: The small municipality, because of its size and geographical location, is literally 'a voice crying in

the wilderness' and will not be heard at Queen's Park. This is the well known 'greasing the squeaking axle' principle.

Fourth: Without exception, local people want to plan their own local destiny in keeping with the overall picture.

Fifth and last: With enough leverage from enough municipalities, the provincial government is amenable to suggestions.

Your editors will deal in depth with the cold hard facts, speeches, statistics, press releases and editorial comments.

Here is one man's view as a delegate and member of two planning boards.

The provincially-appointed task force had recommended that the Simcoe County area be developed in a certain fashion, but from Collingwood to Orillia, from Penetanguishene to Innisfill, councils have slightly different thoughts, and it was made known.

Loud and clear....

The lady from Wasaga Beach (Nancy's Villa) was very knowledgeable, very articulate; Mayor Boyd of Midland, very strong on Midland's behalf; and

Collingwood stood up to be counted on future planned growth. Penetanguishene was held up by a provincial spokesman as a good model of sound planning and administration (Of course, I'm biased).

All the way down the line. From nearly 200 people, working together and trying to look at things from a county rather than just local level, there were positive proposals.

Municipalities will have to band-together and form area planning boards. Our own Tiny-Tay Peninsula Planning Board was an example used. This way, united, the area boards carry more political clout.

Barrie will grow, as everyone knew it would anyway, but with a slight difference. Instead of Barrie being the only area favoured by the province in its growth concepts, they now realize that our local areas are alive and well.

Midland area: Here we are ready and waiting with suitable planning and all systems go.

Collingwood area: Industry oriented, natural harbour, ready and willing.

Orillia area: All kinds of package deals 'rarin to go.' And so on.

Why not, I mean why not? With the province wishing to relieve congestion in the Toronto-Hamilton horseshoe and divert some 'up north,' our local municipalities, knowing what the area taxpayers want, being on the ball, controlled, planned growth to suit the community is the name of the game.

We all agree on basics like retention of prime agricultural land and long-term planning. We have our domestic tiffs in area board meetings. Barrie and Innisfill may be squabbling like cat and dog until they form an area board, as we did.

But the province realizes these are teething problems, and the way it looked to me was this: Form your area boards, resolve local differences and then think county-wide. Queen's Park could then step partially aside and let us do on a county basis what each and every one of us has stated publicly.

Plan our own future.

I look forward with interest to the provincial task force report on what took place in Stephen Leacock Land this weekend.

Ray Baker is a manager at Midland's RCA plant. He and his family live in Penetanguishene.

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