

CIRCUS LANGUAGE, ALL ITS OWN, DESCRIBED IN BOOK; SOME SLANG IS ORIGINAL

(Toledo Blade)

The circus has a language all its own, according to Ed P. Norwood, for many years publicity director for Ringling Bros. circus, and who is well known to many Toledo business and newspaper men.

Mr. Norwood, who has been in Toledo frequently with the circus is the author of "The Circus Menagerie" which is being published this month. "The slang of the circus is of two distinct kinds," says Mr. Norwood, "that which has been borrowed from other crafts—as the lingo of sailormen—and that which is distinctly original. As to the first, one finds Jim Whalen boss canvasman with the Ringlings, terming his office quarters at the forward end of the stake and chain wagon the fo'c'sle.

Townners, Razorbacks

"We find in 'townner' the showman's name for all those not connected with the circus. 'Lot fleas' are those townners who come to the 'lot' but hang around without buying tickets. The show ground is always termed the 'lot.' That place at which the show unloads from its trains is known as the 'runs' because of the runaways dawn when the wagons and cages are brought off the cars. The distance traveled by the show from one exhibition to point another is known as the 'run'; the journey from the trains to the lot is the 'haul'. All the points where exhibitions are made are 'stands.'

The men who unload the circus at the trains are 'razorbacks' a term often incorrectly used by townners and even some writers to denote the men who work on the lot. That name 'razorback' is a contraction of 'raise your backs' which was the order given by the circus train master in far away days when cages and wagons were small and had to be shifted on the flat cars by men getting underneath lifting upward with their backs and swinging them about.

"When the big show has so many people inside the 'big top' (main exhibition tent) that no more tickets can be sold the result is called a 'turn-away.' And should you hear a circus man saying he 'sells cherries on the come-out' you will know he vends balloons—which do look like cherries when held in a cluster—to the crowd as it is leaving the lot after the show."

Python is "Big Worm"

Here is a partial glossary of 'lot slang' supplied by Mr. Norwood:

The teacher: Bandmaster.
The big tub: Bass drum.
Potato masher: Drum stick.
Possum gravy: Interlude music.
Slippery horn: Trombone.
Peck horn: Alto.
A banner: Necktie.
Middle piece (after a roof segment of the big top): Vest.
The old folks: Monkeys.
The big turkeys: Ostriches.
The zekes: Hyenas.
The spotted girls: Giraffes.
The humps: Camels.
The convicts: Zebras.
The rattlers: Trains.
The big worm: Boa constrictor or python.
The hay burners: Elephants.
Tack spitter: Bill poster who tacks up cloth banners.
The big pages: Large posters or "stands" of paper.

Mr. Norwood basing his statement upon 15 years of observation with circuses, declares that 90 per cent of the people who visit tent show menageries do not know a tiger from a leopard or a leopard from a jaguar. He points out that while both wear spots, the leopard's tail is almost twice as long as that of the jaguar; the tiger's coat is always marked with stripes.

Mr. Norwood points out a number of other facts not generally known to the circus going public.

Giraffes Are Voiceless

"All giraffes are voiceless" he says "and their forelegs are no longer than the hind ones despite an optical illusion to the contrary. The camel's backbone does not run up into his hump. An elephant's tail ends in a tuft of hair and he wears bristles on his head and back. Polar bears have bristles on the underside of their feet.

"Circus elephants do not live to the

rare age often attributed to them; one who attains 70 is a very old bull. Many young elephants have to learn to like peanuts. When drinking water is too cold to suit his taste an elephant will draw it back from his mouth into his trunk to warm it. While some elephants are better soldiers than others there is no such thing as a 'boss,' king or a 'police-man elephant' who keeps the rest of the herd in order. Big as they are, elephants are sensitive to cold and easily chilled. With like conditions of ground an elephant can push a much heavier load than he can pull.

"Of the hyena species it is only the spotted variety that laughs and the popular belief that his laughter presages rain is entirely fallacious. Another common fallacy is that performing seals are fed only when doing their act. That which the public sees given them is less than a tenth of their daily rations. Camels prefer thistles to hay. They do not roll over as is the case with horses; nor does the elephant. Zebras are not untamable.

"Finally," Mr. Norwood adds, "for the benefit of lads who believe to the contrary, 'Camel's milk' is not the pass word that admits to the circus. In fact I know of no password of any sort. Yet on several occasions boys have come to the men at the front door of the big show to whisper the supposed 'open sesame' into the ear. Where the notion started I do not know but all came with the same phrase—'Camel's milk.' "

PARIS POLICE USING RADIO THESE DAYS

Paris, July 22—Criminal activities over the radio are becoming so serious in France that the world's first radio police force is being organized to combat this new type of swindler. It will concentrate its efforts in stopping illegal speculations on the franc and on Bourse quotations.

Besides looking after the financial interests of the country, the radio police will also lend international co-operation in the apprehension of thieves, murderers and fugitives of justice of all sorts who are wanted by the police of other countries. The transmission of photographs by radio and the fast sending of all necessary details regarding a criminal or a suspect will be concentrated in this department.

The international side of this radio service will be particularly at the disposition of other countries with the result that law-breakers fleeing from France will find that they have already been formally and minutely introduced to the police of other countries. The scope of the radio police, it is pointed out by officials, is unlimited, being dependent only on the ever-increasing improvements of radio science.

The members of this new police unit are being recruited from among radio experts. The regular police who are already acquainted with radio technique are being given preference for the new positions.

A number of people who were speculating on the franc or disposing of stocks and bonds illegally have been found to have strong sending and receiving sets without a license. Much wild play on the Bourse has been due to persons listening in illegitimately on quotations and being able to sell or buy before the public was aware of what was happening.

If such a service had existed during the last few years many criminals would have detected, it is said by officials. The little Corsican chief of the French police, Jean Chiappe, is understood to be giving the new department his fullest support.

France Favored

Paris, July 19—Regardless of whether the United States or Germany is to be opposing nation, France is looking forward without undue nervousness to the Davis Cup challenge round here July 26, 27 and 28. The betting is four to one that France retains the cup.

QUEBEC HAS BIG SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR

Quebec, July 22—The province of Quebec finished the fiscal year of 1928-29 on the right side of the ledger to the extent of \$4,011,795.62 and had it not been for the extraordinary expenditure of \$500,000 for the University of Montreal and \$1,000,000 each for the reduction of the debt and public assistance, this surplus would have reached \$6,511,795.62.

Both expenditures and receipts for the year were the highest ever recorded, the expenditures for the twelve months ended on June 30 last totalling \$35,964,487.42.

Against this however, were the record ordinary receipts of the year amounting to \$39,976,283.04.

Receipts from the Quebec Liquor Commission proved to be the best single item totalling \$7,000,000 while lands and forests come second in line with receipts of \$6,523,529.68.

While the Liquor Commission reported a substantial surplus of \$1,500,000 over its previous year's figure the receipt from lands and forests dropped off to the extent of \$279,966.76.

Big Increase

An increase of \$1,572,548.79 in the amount received from the gasoline tax is recorded, the tax yielding \$3,253,039.78 for 1928-29 as against \$1,680,490.99 during the previous 12 months. Mines, fisheries and hunting yielded \$1,005,551.63, for an increase of \$28,186.36 over the previous year, when receipts were \$977,365.27.

The Motor Vehicle Act showed the increase of almost \$1,000,000 during the course of the year and was the third most profitable item of the entire list. During 1927-28 the revenue from this source was \$3,997,001.41 but for the 12 months ended June 30 last it jumped to \$4,880,739.86 for an increase of \$883,738.45.

Reform and industrial schools brought in revenue of \$235,995.92 during the year this representing a comfortable increase.

FIRE ALARM LOCATION IN THE CITY

- 6 Argyle and York Sts.
- 7 Victoria Public Hospital.
- 8 Children's Home.
- 2 Westmorland and Aberdeen Sts.
- 13 Northumberland and Saundert Sts.
- 14 Brunswick and Smythe Sts.
- 15 Charlotte and Smythe Sts.
- 16 George and Northumberland Sts.
- 17 King and Northumberland Sts.
- 21 York and Queen Sts.
- 23 York and George Sts.
- 24 Queen and Westmorland Sts.
- 25 Brunswick and Westmorland Sts.
- 26 Charlotte and Westmorland Sts.
- 27 King and York Sts.
- 28 Saunders and York Sts.
- 31 Queen and Regent Sts.
- 32 Needham and Regent Sts.
- 34 Queen and Carleton Sts.
- 35 Brunswick and Carleton Sts.
- 36 Charlotte and Carleton Sts.
- 37 George and Regent Sts.
- 38 King and Regent Sts.
- 43 Aberdeen and St. John Sts.
- 44 Queen and St. John Sts.
- 45 Brunswick and St. John Sts.
- 46 Charlotte and St. John Sts.
- 51 King and Church Sts.
- 52 George and Church Sts.
- 53 Union and Church Sts.
- 54 Shore Street and Waterloo Row.
- 55 George Street and University Avenue.
- 56 Lansdowne and Waterloo Row.
- 57 Grey Street and University Ave
- 112 Aberdeen and Smythe Sts.

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WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST GORGEOUS FREE STREET PARADE at 11:00 A.M. RAIN OR SHINE

TWO COMPLETE PERFORMANCES DAILY AT 2 AND 8 P.M. DOORS OPEN 1 HOUR EARLIER.

SEATS ON SALE CIRCUS DAY AT **RYAN'S DRUG STORE** SAME PRICE AS AT SHOW GROUNDS

PEACH TAPIOCA

Four tablespoons tapioca
6 large ripe peaches
2 cupfuls water
1-2 cupful sugar.

Soak the tapioca in the water for 15 minutes. Peel and slice the peaches in it. Add the sugar and stir over the fire carefully until the tapioca is transparent. Turn into the serving dish. Serve cold with cream.

When the worm turns it is generally trying to beat a retreat.

"I want to be procrastinated at de nex' corner," said the negro passenger to the tram car conductor.

"You want to be what?" demanded the conductor.

"Don't lose you temper. I had to look in de dictionary myself befo' I found out dat 'procrastinate means put off.'—Japan "Adventurer."

Nine Mohammedans have been sentenced to death in Russian Turkestan for stoning a poet, and we think ourself they went a little too far.

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