

### CIRCUS CLOWN'S STANDARD LOWERED, HARTZELL SAYS

Philadelphia Man in Business 35 Years Declares Wits Alone Counted in Old Days

Jokes Now Carried on Signs, Over Heads of Children, He Asserts

"And, last of all, the clown, making mirth for all the town. With his mouth turned ever upward and his eyebrows ever down."

This is the way James Whitcomb Riley put it in the poem about the circus parade, but judging from the perennial popularity of the buffoon one might safely say, "and best of all the clown."

George Hartzell, a Philadelphian, and a member of that glorious caste for thirty-five of the forty-three years he has been in the circus business, sat on a trunk in the wardrobe room that runs between the two big dressing rooms of the show grounds at Nineteenth street and Hunting Park avenue and told a little of the changes he has witnessed in that length of time.

25 Years With Ringlings For twenty-five years he and Mrs. Hartzell, who is wardrobe mistress, have been connected with the Ringling Brothers show. Their home is at 1843 East Toga street, where they stay from November to March when the show is in winter quarters at Bridgeport, Conn.



GEORGE HARTZELL

wife alone for the plaudits of the audience. Today he has trick automobiles and dummy figures to help him get a laugh, and the strenuous days of tumbling and leaving are no more. "The clown of twenty years ago was a pantomimist whose antics brought laughs, but now he carries signs that bear jokes, it's a shame, too, because it is over the heads of the youngsters, and we should think of them in particular. Of course a few jokes on prohibi-

tion or some witticisms about politics are all right, and we really need them, as our clientele is pretty generally adult. I notice it takes about five grown-ups to escort one child to the circus.

"Old Scene" Riding Abandoned "Another stunt of the old days has been abandoned; that's 'old scene' riding, as we used to call it. It was really burlesque riding, but is never done now. My connection with the circus takes me back to the days of one-night stands and moving by wagon. We'd get up about 4 in the morning in order to make the next town. Starting out in the dark, we'd get lost a half a dozen times and have to wake a farmer or some one to direct us. It was a great life and the lure is the one thing that remains the same; no regardless of changes it is still a great life.

"Funny how the circus gets in your blood, and though we often break away from it we usually come back. "Clowning isn't as strenuous as it used to be, but I'll wager the old ones in the days could do the tumblers on the neck the same as in the old days, but I doubt if we could stand it any more."

K. of C. Honor Evers Tonight The first of a series of events to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the founding of de la Salle Council, Knights of Columbus, will be held tonight in the council clubhouse, 14 East Baltimore avenue, Lansdowne. An entertainment, a smoker and an address by John E. Evers, manager of the Chicago National League Baseball Club, will be among the features. An orchestra organized among the members will make its first appearance. Officers and members of the order in this city will take part in the event in honor of Mr. Evers, who is a prominent member of the K. of C. John B. Geraghty, deputy knight of the council, is arranging the event.

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### HOT FIGHT FOR CLUB HEAD

Morris L. Cooke Opposed as New President of Engineers' Body

One of the bitterest internecine battles seen in Philadelphia clubdom in recent years is raging in the Engineers' Club with Morris L. Cooke, "regular" candidate for the presidency, the center of attack.

Mr. Cooke, who was Director of Public Works under Mayor Blankenburg, was placed in nomination by the club Nominating Committee whose choice usually is accepted as tantamount to election. When Mr. Cooke was named, however, sentiment against him began to appear and crystallized when 100

members filed nominating papers on the opposition ticket.

The member selected to oppose Mr. Cooke is W. F. James, of the Westinghouse Electric Co. The filing of nominating papers for Mr. James was the signal for the receipt by members of a series of letters, attacking Mr. Cooke violently.

The balloting, which opened on May 1, will continue until May 17. Bethlehem, Pa., May 12.—Emma, the eighteen-month-old daughter of Frank Scharkan, escaped from death yesterday when a trolley car ran over her on Fourth street. The car had to be jacked up in order to extricate the child, who was uninjured and unscratched.

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