

Support Your Community Buy At Local Stores

SUSQUEHANNA TIMES

Vol. 76 No. 35 September 1, 1976

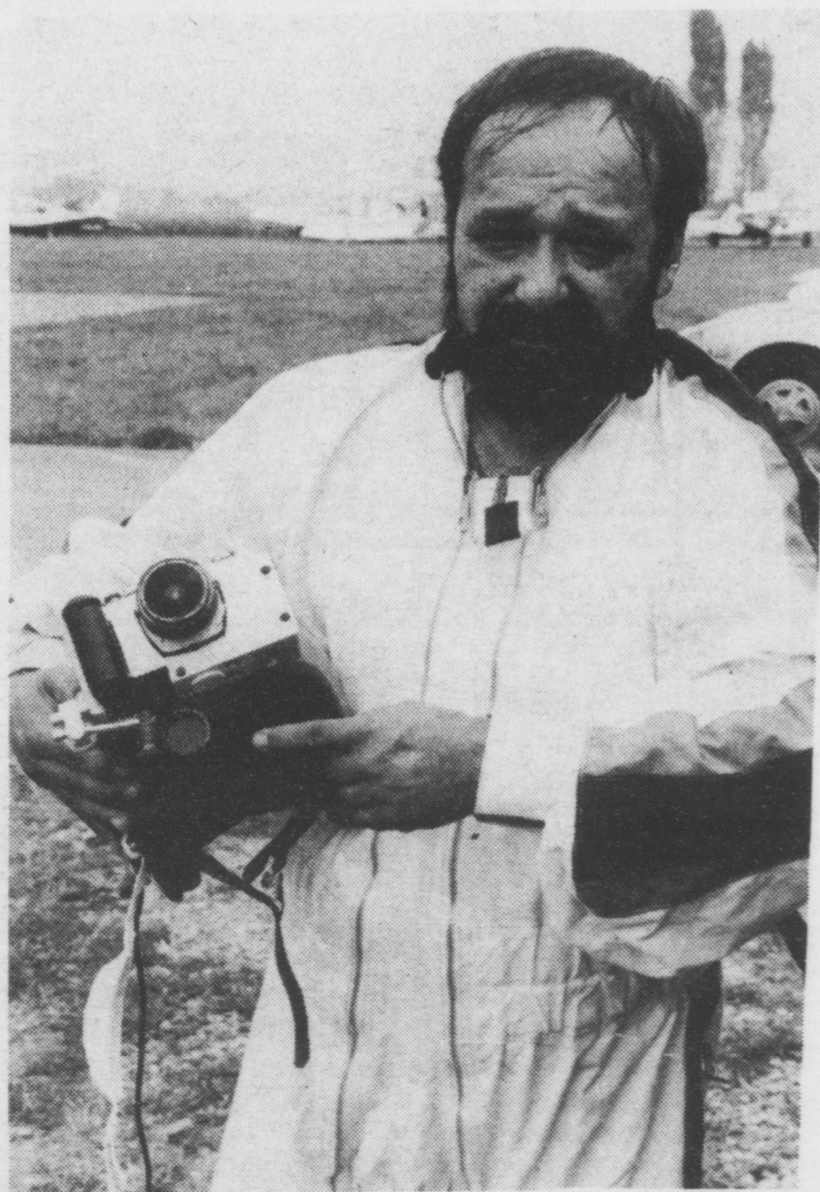
Susquehanna Times & The Mount Joy Bulletin
MARIETTA & MOUNT JOY, PA.

FIFTEEN CENTS

Free-fall photographer of Maytown Airport



Photo by Joe Smith shows a "star" forming above Mount Joy. The man in the background is flying toward the camera.



Master Rigger Joe Smith points to hard-to-obtain reflex sight, used to sight in pictures while thousands of feet in the air.

Joe Smith is not an ordinary parachutist.

Joe Smith is extraordinary because he is not only jumps out of airplanes, but also takes pictures while doing so. His hobby is so unusual that he had to make some of his own equipment, unlike photographic scuba divers and astronomy buffs, who can buy everything they need.

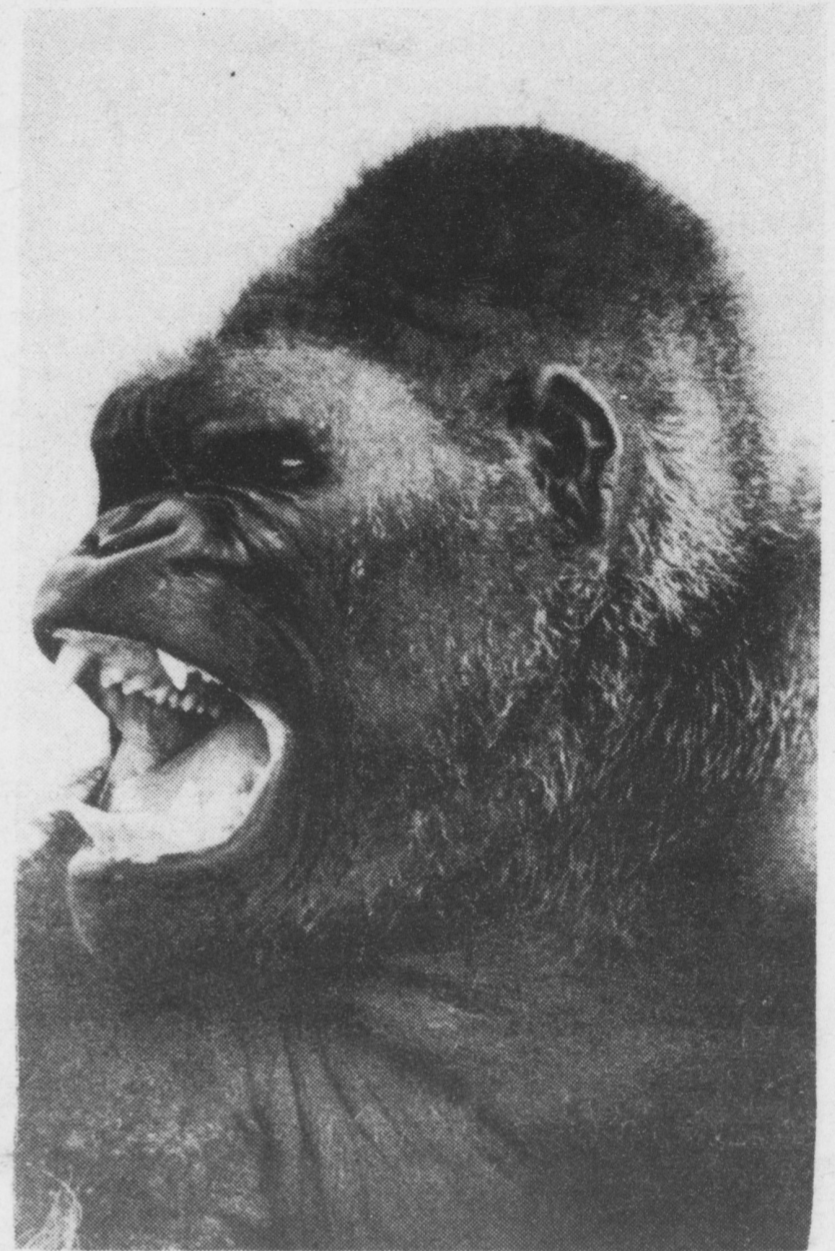
Joe, a member of the Maytown Sport Parachute Club, made his first jump in 1954. He has been parachuting ever since, but only started aerial photography two years ago. "I just fell into it," he says. After a year he got serious and bought \$3,000 worth of equipment. He also made a special helmet mount for his motor-driven 35-millimeter camera. This allows him to point his head at his subject, press a button on his hand-held control unit, and take as many pictures as he wants while in free fall (before he opens his parachute to land). Jumpers need their arms free to maneuver in free fall.

When a group of parachutists free-fall, they like to form themselves into geometric shapes by holding hands and grasping each others' ankles. By changing body position, they can fall at various rates (from 115 to 200 m.p.h.) and move horizontally also. Since they have only about thirty seconds to free fall on an average jump, it takes skill and teamwork to get everyone oriented and connected.

The pictures shown here are of a "star", or circle, the simplest of many patterns such as Diamonds, Bipoles, Frisbees, and French Connections. Joe used a wide-angle lens for these shots to get every one in the picture. This accounts for the distortion.

Even if he weren't a high-flying photographer, Joe Smith would still be an extraordinary parachutist. He has made thousands of jumps. Once he jumped from 27,000 feet—that's

[continued on page 2]



Hoxie's Circus to come to Mount Joy

Frank Good, Jr., Chief of Friendship #1, announced recently their plans to sponsor Hoxie's Great American Circus in Mount Joy on Thursday, September 30th.

Appearing under a new Bicentennial red, white, and blue big top, Hoxie's Great American Circus is one of the prominent circuses of America. It appears in over 200 cities each year throughout the eastern United States.

The real star of Hoxie's Great American Circus is not from Italy, India, or South America, but from Africa. Yes, KONGO, the largest gorilla on tour, is coming to town. Traveling

in a 40-foot steel-barred air conditioned cage, this rare giant creature is one you will never forget.

Buy advance tickets now at reduced prices from any member or at Rutt's Appliance. Hoxie's Great American Circus will give 6 and 8 p.m. performances at Boro lot, corner of Lumber and David St., on Thurs., Sept. 30th.

Proceeds of the circus will be used for payment of the recently delivered heart monitor-defibrillator and the Hurst Power Rescue Tool, now in use by the Friendship Fire Co. These life-saving tools were purchased at a cost of \$10,800.00.

New photo sale policy

Due to the large number of requests for reprints of *Susquehanna Times* news photos, we can no longer afford to give free reprints.

Starting this week, copies of photos appearing in this paper will cost \$2.50. Additional copies of the same picture cost \$2.00 apiece.

If you want to buy a photo, please write within one week of the time the picture appeared in the paper. Include a check, the date of the issue, and the page on which the picture appeared.

We will mail 5X7 inch black and white photos within 10 days.