

pieces outside the tent before the evening performance.

From Alonzo Boyle, Al Ringling borrowed a plow. Al's contribution to the program and the star act of the show was his balancing the plow on his chin in the circus ring. Two other brothers performed on parallel bars. Only twelve to fifteen people attended the first performance.

The Ringlings took their show across the Mississippi to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, three small flat boats carrying all the luggage. The Ringling brothers rowed the boats.

When the Ringlings some time later had progressed to a small wagon show, and came to Iowa again, they had the Walters play for them at several Iowa and Wisconsin towns.

MCGREGOR GIRL BECAME MRS. RINGLING

Al married a McGregor girl who was a good seamstress, and Lou Ringling, as she was known in the circus world in later years, tended to the sewing, patching, and costume-making in the struggling first years of the Ringling Brothers' show.

Years ago, after the Ringlings were well on the road to fame, members of the family used to return to McGregor occasionally, particularly Mrs. Al Ringling who had a sister there; and when McGregor was in hard straits after a flood, the Ringlings sent a generous check.

Should You Come Back

*Should you come back, your room is cleanly swept—
The curtains parted to invite the sun;
The little intimate things you loved are kept
Just as you left them, almost every one.*

*Your handkerchiefs are folded, white as milk;
Suits freshly pressed—ties hung in neat array;
Your gloves are waiting too—and scarves of silk . . .
They wonder why you are so long away.*

—MARGARET E. BRUNER

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