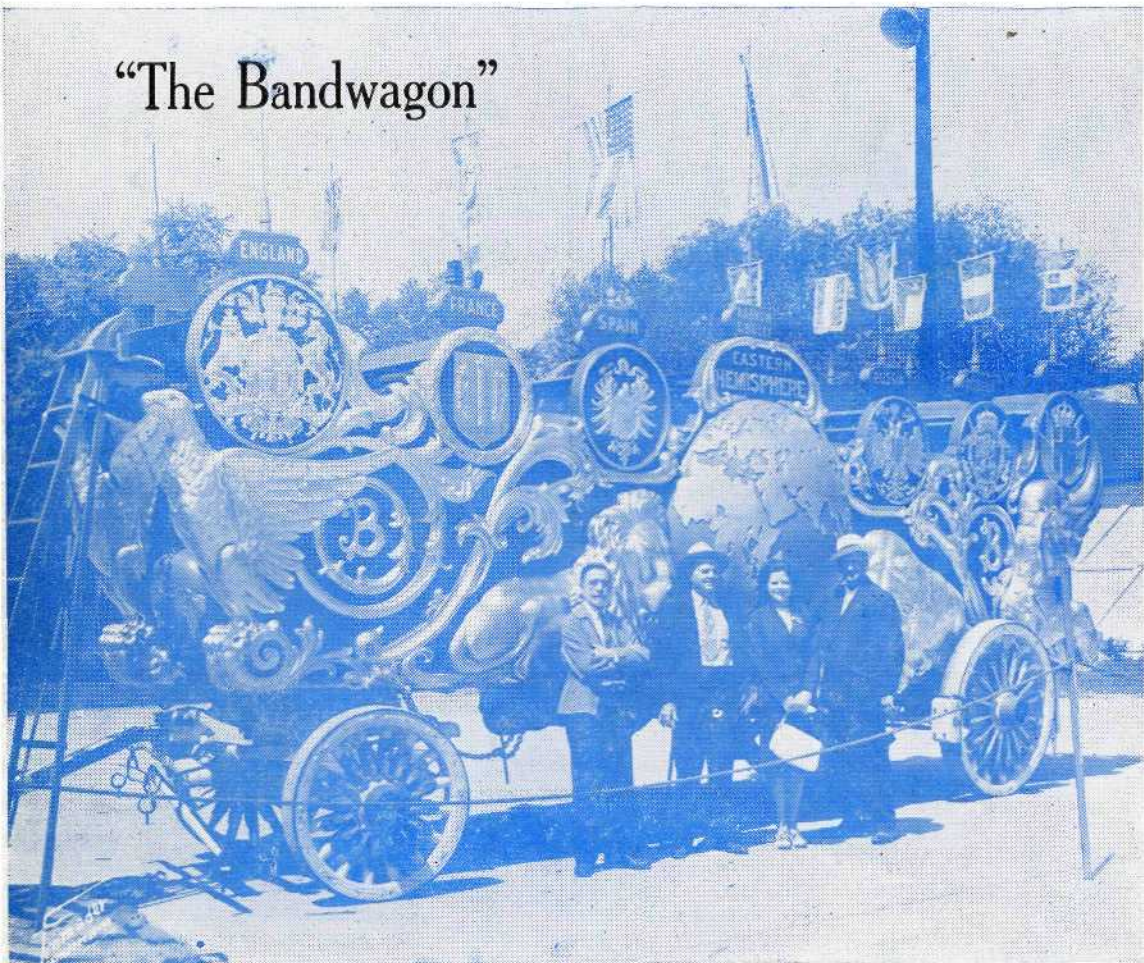


HOBBY-SWAPPER

Circus Historical Society Convention Special

"The Bandwagon"



The Two Hemispheres Bandwagon owned by Col. B. J. Palmer, of Davenport, Iowa. From left to right: Col. Palmer, Zack Terrell, Mrs. Terrell, and Noyelles Burkhart. Terrells own the Cole Bros. Circus and Mr. Burkhart is General Manager of the Circus.

The Collector's Monthly—July 1947—10c

Hobby-Swapper

"The Collector's Monthly"

122 South Main Street

Camden, Ohio

July 1947

Vol. 2 No. 6

HARRY M. SIMPSON

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The Publisher Says



This issue, I dedicate to the Circus Historical Society, who are holding their convention this month in the beautiful Hotel Samuels at Jamestown, N. Y. Here is another fine organization, who like the CFA, have done much toward making it possible for people of this nation to enjoy a great form of amusement . . . the Circus. The Circus Historical Society not only assist the Circus of today, but as a hobby, preserve those of the past.

Officers of the C. H. S. are Mrs. Bette Leonard, president; Maurice Allaire, vice-president; John Crowley, secretary and Walter Fietschmann, treasurer. To these officers I extend my congratulations on their fine and hard work the past months, and for making this convention possible . . . they have had to work under extreme difficulties, all of which have been corrected due to their fine leadership.

The official publication of the C. H. S. is the BANDWAGON and was edited by Robert Green, but due to illness Mr. Green had to resign and I was appointed editor pro tem of their publication. Don Smith, founder of the C. H. S. is making every effort to finish the June issue, and this the July issue of Hobby-Swapper is mailed to all members until satisfactory arrangements can be made at the convention for future issues.

Sincerely,

Harry M. Simpson

Join Central Ohio Precancel Club

Dues, \$1.00 per year.
Write Hobby-Swapper,
For application.

The Circus Historical Society

Convention at Jamestown, N.Y. July 11 to 13

The Circus Historical Society is holding their convention this week, July 11 to 13, in the beautiful Jamestown, N. Y., located on the Chautauqua Lake, with headquarters in the well known Samuels Hotel. Arrangements for reservations and rooms for the business meeting was made by CHS member Burns Kattenberg, manager of the hotel.

Officers of the Circus Historical Society are Mrs. Bette Leonard, president; Maurice Allaire, vice-president; John Crowley, secretary; Walter Pietschmann, treasurer. Past presidents are Don Smith, founder, Walter Tyson,

Arthur Stensvad and John VanMatre.

Although the program is only tentative (pending arrangements for the Circus), the program will be as follows:

Program

Friday, June 11

Registration.

2:00 p. m., first business session.

Saturday, June 12

2:00 p. m., final business session.

8:30 p. m., banquet at Gretchen's Kitchen.

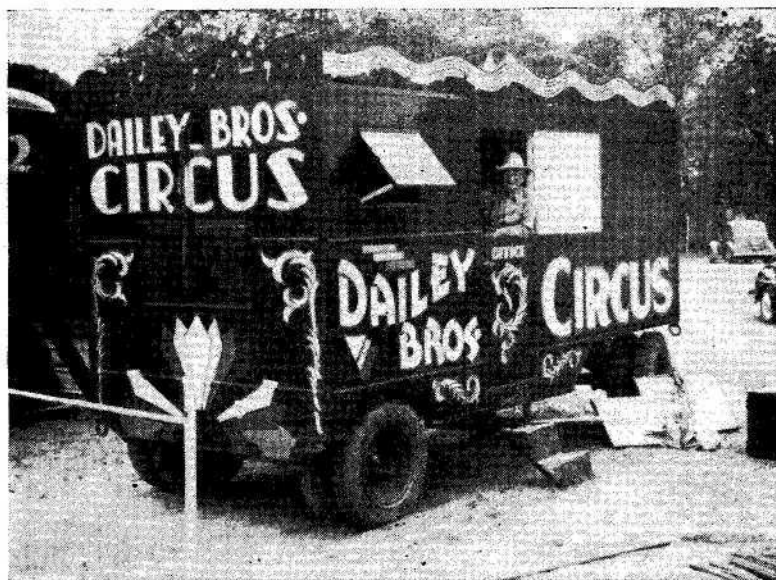
Sunday, July 13

10:00 a. m., Memorial service for Wm. Keford.

2:00 p. m., visit to Celeron Park and a boat ride on beautiful Chautauqua Lake.

Headquarters—Hotel Samuels.

A first floor room has been reserved for business meetings and for the exhibit of Circusiana . . . this will be one of the features of the convention.



The above photograph by CHS member Paul VanCool of Joplin, Mo., and shows Butch Cohen and the Dailey Bros. Circus ticket wa-

gon. This circus is owned by Ben and Eva Davenport and all reports prove that they have the finest program in their history

C.H.S. President's Page

To the members of CHS:

As this is the first chance I have had to talk to you since our last "Bandwagon" of last March, it is with the deepest of thankfulness to all of you who have stuck with me through all these trying times of getting a "Bandwagon" printed.

We must have a regular bulletin to link us together, no one knows the importance of that more than I do, and that is why that I have keenly felt the disappointment of all of you as month after month has gone by and no "Bandwagon," however, I know that I am safe in



BETTE LEONARD
Pres. of C. H. S.

saying that the "Bandwagon" has a real driver now, and I know it will come around to your house on time each month.

I am planning on sitting down with you members at the convention at Jamestown, N. Y., and really have a heart to heart talk, over some of the present happenings in the Circus Historical Society, and I am inviting all of the members to listen in as there will be minutes of the meeting taken and will be printed in full in the August issue of "Bandwagon."

The Circus Historical Society was founded with this idea in mind to bring together under one Society, the combined interests, of all Circus Collectors, Fans, Performers, Photographers, and Model Builders.

We started with ten charter members and today we have 350 members. My term of office runs until 1948 and I would like to see at least five hundred by then.

Bette Leonard
President of CHS

—o—

C. H. S. NOTES

CHS members John Crowley and Larry Butler recently made a four-day tour with Cole Brothers Circus, joining the show at Binghamton, N. Y. on June 12.

The King & Franklin Circus has been reported as closed for the season.

Dr. H. Powers spent two days visiting the Mills Bros. Circus at South Bend, Ind.

Sparks Circus reports good business for their run through Canada . . . they expect to enter the New England States this month.

CIRCUS — WANT TO BUY — MAGIC

Cash for Circus and Magic programs, posters, heralds, couriers, old prints, books (fact), letters, letter heads, photos, route books, songsters, handbills, lithographs, etc. State all in first letter, giving dates, number, condition, price. Cash paid day items received. America's foremost dealer in Circus material.

C. SPENCER CHAMBERS

P. O. BOX 722 : SYRACUSE 1 : NEW YORK

Minstrelsy and the Circus

By Chris W. Viohl, Jr.

We seldom think of the circus in the terms of minstrelsy but as a matter of fact that is where the black-face or negro impersonator enjoyed his first big success. It is quite true that the black-face of the early circus was not minstrelsy as we have come to know it, but it was from this beginning that the minstrel became a reality. In the early days of the circus in the United States with its one ring, the show was a more intimate affair than at the present time and it was practically a necessity to have a black-face clown with the show due to his tremendous popularity. These purveyors of mirth sang songs from the ring and on occasions from the back of a horse for a number of these clowns were excellent horsemen. There was also the exchange of jokes and banter between the clown and the ringmaster and it is from this that we may assume the minstrel first part was evolved. This so-called first part in the minstrel show in which the interlocutor or middle man played straight to the end man, is certainly not unlike the presentation used by the circus clown and the ringmaster. The circus lays no claim to the origination of this routine between the clown and the ringmaster for it was used long before in the sixteenth century.

Many well known minstrel men had their start along the burnt-cork highway by way of the circus, Billy Whitlock, who with Dick Pelham, Dan Emmett and Frank Brower organized the first minstrel troupe in 1843 called the "Virginia Minstrels," trouped with various circuses and in the winter of 1839 was working for the celebrated P. T. Barnum as a banjo player for the famous jig dancer, John Diamond. Dan Emmett perhaps one of the best remembered

.....turn to page 10



H. H. CONLEY
Pres. of C. F. A.

To All Members of the Circus Historical Society:

Greetings and best wishes for the success of your 1947 convention. All members of the Circus Fans Ass'n. of America appreciate the interesting work that C. H. S. is doing in collecting historical data and increasing our knowledge of circus lore.

May we all work together in teaching the public more about the greatest form of entertainment—The American Circus.

H. H. Conley, M. D., President
Circus Fans Ass'n. of America,
Member of C. H. S. No. 24.

C. H. S. NOTES

The Wallenda Circus, reported closed, is now playing engagements in Indiana and played at Richmond, Ind., June 26, 27 and 28.

Terrell Jacobs is with the Roy Rogers Circus that just completed a successful stand at the Polo Grounds in New York City.

The James M. Cole Circus is playing cities in Ohio and Michigan . . . this is new territory for this great truck circus.

Capt. Bates - Anna Swan

By Joseph L. Tracy

There have been many giants of the circus side show, but not all had the good fortune of finding a mate of equal size, as was the case of Capt. Bates and Anna Swan.

Capt. Martin Van Buren Bates, son of John W. and Sarah Bates, was born the year of 1845 on a farm in Litcher county, Kentucky. Capt. Bates was one of twelve children, all of normal height, as was his parents. A full grown man at the age of 16, reaching the height of 8 ft., he was given the title of "Kentucky Giant."

After serving in the Confederate Army as a 1st Lt., he retired from the army and settled in Cincin-



Capt. and Mrs. Bates

nati, Ohio. From 1865 to 1870 he exhibited throughout the United States and then sailed for England in 1871, giving a command performance before Queen Victoria and other British Royalty. Capt. Bates married Anna Swan, a giantess of 7 ft. 11 inches, on June 17, 1871, following a European tour by both.

Anna Swan, daughter of Alexander and Ann Swan, was born in New Annan, Nova Scotia. Anna was one of thirteen children, all of whom were of normal height. Billed as the "Nova Scotia Gi-

antress," she was exhibited by the late P. T. Barnum, in the American Museum, corner of Broadway and Ann St., New York City, escaping death during the first fire of the museum. Anna Swan made two European tours.

Capt. and Mrs. Bates had a combined height of 15 ft. 11 inches and weight of 900 lbs. To this marriage was born two children, both of normal size, but died in infancy. After retirement, they settled on a 130-acre farm near Seville, Ohio, raising fancy horses. Their home and furniture were made to order to conform with their unusual height.

Both left retirement during 1878 to 1880 to tour with the W. W. Cole Circus and Museum. Capt. Bates lived until Jan. 7, 1919.

Don't go 'way folks it isn't out or isn't over, everyone gather in closely now and we're going to tell you about this famous after show that costs you just \$2.50 more my friends. If you're under eighteen or over eighty, you'll be physically and mentally incapable of appreciating the performance, but if you're not, now don't go 'way folks, please, please, don't deny yourself the opportunity to catch this famous word juggling act by one Gerald Kersh, who has just completed a novel "Prelude To a Certain Midnight" and appears on a banner on the cover of his book in a black and white drawing that reveals him with a somewhat sinister haircut, a unique black beard that would mark him as a dangerous man to introduce to any girls' school and a pair of staring eyes. As described by Harrison Smith in Saturday Review of Literature it's drawn in the manner Mr. Kersh draws his characters, sharp, vivid and exotic. This "Prelude To A Certain Midnight" is now being published by Doubleday & Co. at the small price of two dollars and fifty cents. \$2.50 won't make you or it won't break you, but it will give you an opportunity to catch Mr. Kersh at work with a paragrahy that surpasses pornography for exciting entertainment.

Now, listen folks, if you've given your undivided attention to this second opening to our editor's blow-off on Circusiana, don't fail

Next Page, Please

to take your \$2.50 down to your nearest book store, purchase an arm chair ticket to the entire performance of this "Prelude To A Certain Midnight" and treat your spinal column to an oriental musicale dance, without benefit of a flageolet player. I thank you one and all for your kind attention.

—Mac

Gun Gossip

By Edward L. Beard
1811 Dale Road,
Cincinnati 29, Ohio

Several readers have written asking me to appraise different types of firearms. This is very difficult since there are so many factors to consider in placing a value on an old gun. In the first place, a detailed description is quite necessary. Condition, size, caliber, type of ignition and markings are very important. Then again there are two values to be considered. What the dealer will pay and what the collector, who happens to need the piece, will pay, are two different matters. We must remember that the dealer is in business and must sell his merchandise for a profit.

Now, if you will give me better descriptions I'll try to give you some idea as to what your piece is worth, but remember this—about 90% of old guns found in attics have little value—but there is always that other 10% to dream about. Many rare items are still to be found and let us hope that you DO have something. As a general rule pistols are worth more than long guns. To the layman, who has little knowledge of the value of antique guns, it is quite a shock to learn that Grandfather's Civil War musket is only worth about \$5.00—now on the other hand if he has Grandfather's pistol—well, drop me a line. A stamp will be appreciated.

Here is an interesting item—did you ever wonder why the Winchester people stamp their ammunition with the letter "H"? No? Well, it seems that many years ago, a gentleman by the name of Tyler Henry was the engineering genius who went in with Oliver Winchester in the early development of the

repeating rifle which was to make the name Winchester famous. Thus for the past eighty odd years, the Winchester Repeating Arms Company have used this means to honor Mr. Henry.

A new collectors group has just been recently organized and I have the honor of holding the office of president. We call ourselves the Midwest Gun Collectors Association and just recently applied for a charter under the laws of Ohio. The response to this new organization has been tremendous—collectors and gun fans are joining from all over the country. Applications for membership arrive daily from California to New York. We are publishing a magazine called "Random Shots" and with time and backing we feel that worthwhile publication will result. We realize, of course, that members living great distances from Cincinnati cannot possibly attend our monthly gun shows, but they feel as we do, that the more organization we have, the more fight we can muster to lobby against anti-gun laws. The dues are \$2.00 per year, which include the magazine. (A sample copy can be mailed for a dime). If you are interested, please drop a card and I will be more than glad to supply you with application blank and additional information.

A reader wrote asking me to place the date of the first practical use of a multi-firing gun. I'm sorry but that is practically impossible. A double wheel lock gun of German make, is known to have been made about 1600. There is also a three barreled matchlock of Oriental origin in existence. Ever since man has known gunpowder he has attempted to increase his firepower and I don't believe anyone could possibly set a definite date as to the first use of multi-firing firearms. If any reader has any information on this subject I would be pleased to hear from him.

By the way, I am very much interested in hearing from anyone who might have good brass or copper powder flasks to sell. Am particularly interested in those with fancy pictorial designs or unusual shapes.

Remember a self-addressed stamped envelope will bring an answer to your questions.

Two Hemispheres Bandwagon

It is very appropriate that we use the Two Hemispheres Band Wagon on the cover of this issue . . . since this is one of the most famous of the bandwagons that led the circus parades of yesteryears, now owned and recently restored by CHS member Col. B. J. Palmer of Davenport, Iowa, and once driven by the one and only CHS member Jake Posey. "The Bandwagon" is the name of the official organ of the Circus Historical Society and also their official emblem.

This band wagon was built for the Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1896 and first used by the "Greatest Show on Earth" in 1897. It's glittering beauty led their triumphant free street parades until 1918 or 1919, which included a tour of Europe during the turn of the twentieth century. The wagon was drawn on many occasions by the famous 40-horse hitch of matched bays . . . 10 teams, 4 abreast. These were driven by "Big Jake Posey."

Officially known as "Wagon 142-143" this famous chariot led its last parade with Cole Brothers Circus on July 10, 1936, carrying the Vic Robbins band. After discontinuing street parades, Zack Terrell, owner of the band wagon, presented it to Col. B. J. Palmer of Davenport, Iowa, who restored the wagon to its former beauty and placed it in a specially constructed building on the corner of Eleventh and Brady streets in Davenport . . . here all can enjoy this famous wagon.

CHS CIRCUS PHOTO

The cage wagon photograph received by members of the Circus Historical Society this month was through the courtesy of Don Smith of Farmington, Mich.

This cage wagon was a feature in the John Robinson Circus parades for many years. At various times it carried a hippo, polar bears or sea lions, and is said to be one of the few wagons permanently identified with the John

Robinson Circus. Many of their wagons had born titles of Howes Great London, Sells-Floto or Hagenbeck-Wallace Circuses, but this huge cage was always "J. R."

It is shown in the grave yard at Peru, Ind., in 1937, at which time a number of other Robinson and Sells-Floto wagons were still stored. However, in 1938, most of these were destroyed by fire, and with little publicity, followed by complete destruction of wagons and shed in 1941. This photo seems to symbolize more than any other, the end of the glittering Circus Parades of yesteryear, which C. H. S. has sought to perpetuate in memory.



Geo. Evans, Pres., L. E. Brown, V.P., C. J. Tripp, Treas.
D. W. Denton, Secy., Lancaster, Ohio
Anne L. Denton, Asst. Secy.

DIRECTORS: A. O. Brown, Chas. McClintock,
Karl L. Denton, Elmer Jackson, Perrin Hazelton,
J. Lester Haberkorn, Oak Shannon,

Official Publication: HOBBY-SWAPPER

Due to the fact we are publishing a Burnt Corker Special next month, we are withholding all copy for that issue and all articles, not used in the August edition will be held for this page in future issues of Hobby-Swapper. Last month (June 22) I had the pleasure of meeting your secretary D. W. Denton and his charming wife. They stopped off here enroute to Indiana to join the Mighty Hoosier State Shows . . . now I know why your secretary is so popular among the Burnt Corkers.

—Publisher

CASH — MINSTREL — CASH

Highest prices paid for Minstrel Programs, Heralds and Photos. List issued each month.

C. SPENCER CHAMBERS

P.O. Box 722. Syracuse 1, N. Y.

minstrels for his composing of the beloved "Dixie", was with the Sam Stickney's Circus and others.

Dan Emmetts last minstrel engagement was with the great Al. G. Field Minstrel Show in 1895 and the grand old minstrel passed away on June 28, 1904. Frank Brower, another of the founders of the first minstrel troupe, also trouped with various circuses notably the celebrated John Robinson Show about 1839 and later with the Raymond and Warind's Circus. We are also reminded that the last member of the "Big Four" of minstrelsy appeared in a circus at the Bowery Amphitheatre, New York City, in 1840, so it is quite evident that the minstrel show owes much to the circus.

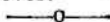
The black-face was as popular with the English circuses as they were with those in the United States. Joseph Sweeney, who has been called the "father of the banjo" and who is credited with originating the five string banjo, appeared with the Sand's Great America Circus in London, about the year 1843. Sweeney, a vocalist of no mean ability, sang and played the banjo dressed in wide trousers, striped white and red, with a fancy vest, a large white collar and a big straw hat. This costume, along with the burnt-cork make up was about the conventional pattern used in the minstrel shows that followed.

"Pony" Moore as George Washington Moore of early minstrel fame, received the nickname "Pony" from the fact that he was for a time a "long string" driver with a circus. Moore appeared in black-face as a clown on the Welsh and Delevan Circus in 1844.

The list of notables, both of the minstrel and legitimate stage, is an impressive one comprising such notables as Eddie Foy, Al Jolson, Sol. Smith, Edwin Forrest, Tony Pastor, Fred Stone, Dave Montgomery, Joe Weber, Lew Fields and many others, all of these having trouped with circuses in their early days.

With the advent of the minstrel troupe in 1843 the circus and the black-face clown drifted apart and

it is most impossible today to see a follower of the burnt-cork with a circus. The minstrel show as a professional venture while almost non-existent, we trust is only in a state of hibernation and will emerge once again "bigger and better than ever."



PERSONALS

N. F. Mallory of Chatham, N. Y., collects old glass and china.

Mrs. Gene Kirkpatrick of Casey, Iowa, is a collector of buttons.

Anna M. Graham of Des Moines, Iowa, says, "I've enjoyed the first year of your magazine and I wish you much luck this second year."

"I enjoy your magazine very much, good luck," says Marye D. Olson of Hollywood, Calif.

Business Directory

Rate—three lines for 6 months, no change in copy, \$3.00; or 12 months for \$5.00.

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The Shell Collectors Department

By Dorothy L. Freas

8935 86th St. Woodhaven 21, N. Y.

Seeing Double

In past articles of this column, the emphasis has been on univalves, those mollusks whose shell house is all in one piece. Now we think about the hinged shells. We all are familiar with common clam and oyster shells, although these are usually found in separate parts on the beach. After the little animal has died, the hinge and the muscles which hold the two parts together are weakened so that the valves as they are called divide.

There are some beauties among the bivalves and I shall mention five.

The angelwings, (*Pholas costata*) are like sculptured white marble, and look like the wings of carved angels, with radiating lines on the upper curved surface. Their size, often six or seven inches long, in addition to the snowy whiteness, makes them striking among the bivalves.

The common Razor Clam (*Ensis Americanis*) gets its name from the curved razor of Grandpa's day. It is slightly curved and of a greenish-gray, about five inches long and not an inch wide its entire length. The adults generally have a thin shellac-like finish, and seldom come in pairs as they break apart so easily. Last fall, in Cape May, New Jersey, one morning we found a dozen pairs in one little curve of the beach, but that was unusual.

Probably more people know the edible part of the scallop, but the graceful shape of the shell used in advertising gasoline by that trade-name is generously represented in the Pecten classification.

The Lion's Paw of this family is a lovely reddish orange, and has an unevenness on the back which suggests the toes of a lion. This shell is found on the Southeast coast of the United States and is a fine addition to any collection.

A double shell of the Painted Thorny Oyster is not found in many collections, as it is an expen-

sive shell in its complete state. However, one valve is very nice to have. White, or orange, or deep red, and with graceful flat spines, apparently growing out of every inch of the shell. One of the most beautiful of the Spondylus group has a deep orange beak and shades sharply into white. The curved spines follow the color of the rest of the shell.

Up to this point, we have been seeing double. Both valves of these shells are the same. As in most matters, there is the exception. The Vola group, in this case, has one nicely rounded scallop-like side, and the other valve is flat. The complete shell looks like a dainty jewel case with a lid which is a little too small and fits just below the fluted edge of the box. Each indentation of the fan-shaped top follows perfectly the carved edge of the concave shell which forms the box. The flat valve is sometimes displayed alone, but this is one of the bivalves which should always be obtained completely, to show its full beauty.

—C—

THANKS

Thanks to Dr. H. Powers of South Bend, Ind., Gilbert S. Perez of Manila, P. I., Robert D. Good of Allentown, Pa., George Churchill of Cole Bros. Circus, Malcolm Webb of Camden, Ohio, Clarence R. Shank of Camden, Ohio, Harry Armstrong of Sparks Circus, Karl Cartwright of Sparks Circus, Robert H. Smeltzer of Philadelphia, Pa., C. Spencer Chambers of Syracuse, N. Y. and Robert C. King of Richmond, Ind., all of whom sent the published items for his collection.

Greetings to
C.H.S.

SHANK PHOTOS

Clarence R. Shank
Camden, Ohio