Gossip About Plays, Players and Playhouses

OMAHA is to have two circuses this week, and this fact is in a large degree responsible for the presence in the city during the last few days of two of the most genial gentlemen, who entertained entranced listeners with accounts of the magnitude and importance of the organizations they represent. "Doc" Waddell and James Jay Brady met here because of the fact that their rival organizations are scheduled to follow one another into the village. It doesn't often happen that such stars as this pair are found in conjunction, and the occasion was one of much interest to those with whom the press agent comes most in contact. As this column recently had some good words to say in favor of the press agent, and especially mentioned this pair as being fine representatives of the guild, nothing will be added at present beyond a reference to that utterance as to the general stand on the subject. It may be wondered what this has to do with the theater. One of Colonel Brady's qualifications for his position is that he has had experience in about all lines of the show business. Among other things he treasures is a watch presented to him by employees of the theater, when he was the manager of the Union Square theater in New York in its palmy days. So it was no surprise when he undertook to set up a comparison between the theater and the circus.

"You can say what you like about the drama being elevating," said Mr. Brady, "but for pure enjoyment give me the circus. The purpose of the drama is to uplift, and yet I went to a play the other night in which a man loved some other fellow's wife and in order to clear the track so he could marry her, he killed her husband. By some sort of philosophy the playwright made a hero out of the fellow and I'm darned if the audience didn't take to him. Do you see anything uplifting in that? I don't. Why, a man is likely to go home from the theater nowadays, saturated with false philosophy and Shawism and run off with the hired girl.

"On the other hand, take the circus. Look at the crowds—what an opportunity for studying our fellow man. And that's everything. Pope says, 'the proper study of mankind is man,' and I'll bet he thought of that while sitting on the bleachers at the circus. You enter the menagerie and what a book of wonders lies open before you! Yes, and you smell the sawdust and that's healthful-like balm from the pine forests. You sit in the vast arena surrounded by a sea of happy faces. Everybody feels young. You see a lot of fine muscular specimens of manhood streaming out from the dressing rooms and it makes you throw out your chest and breathe deep. And the hearty and innocent laughter you get is better than all the medicine in town. So you see the healthful benefits of the circus are many.

"Now imagine yourself at the theater. First thing they do is lower the lights on you. You sit between a fat woman and an Ibsen fiend, with a French twist in front of you; and some dame in the rear is disposing of her bonnet, runs a hatpin through the back of your chair and into your spine if you don't jump quick enough. If you get thirsty, does anyone come around with red lemonade, I should say not!

"If a man is blind the theater is no place for him. If he's deaf, he'll find no entertainment there unless they have a moving picture machine. How about the circus? Why, it makes little difference to the deaf man, and the blind man can listen to the music and hear the animals growl, and he can shout when the whips crack and have a devil of a time generally. Yes, by George, let a man be deaf and blind, and the smell of the sawdust and the animals will revive in his memory the happiest days of his life. The lemonade may be colorless to him, but, ah, the glorious peanut is the same as of yore.

"Oh, you'll see wonders enough next Tuesday to hold you for a while. There's no wife murders there—or Mrs. Somebody's expectations; no problems to solve—just pure amusement. It's exit Shaw, enter Barnes."

Miss Marie Pavey, who is leading the Baker Stock company at Portland, Me., this summer, has scored a distinct hit. Her opening bill was "The Girl From the Golden West," an unusually trying part, but she more than made good in it. It will be no surprise to her Omaha friends, who watched her work with such interest at the Boyd theater, to read the following from the Portland Sunday Times: "Miss Pavey as the girl made the lighter scenes of the first act the vehicle for a delightful character study and in the strong scenes of the second act she showed a capacity for emotional acting which won for her instant favor and hearty recognition."

Miss Marie Pettes writes to Omaha friends that she is now Mrs. B. Y. Connor and is spending the summer quietly at their home in New York. Mr. Connor was manager of the company with which Miss Pettes made the tour of the country during the winter, supporting Miss Mary Shaw in a round of Shaw and Ibsen plays. They were married last month, just after their return to New York. Her Omaha friends have extended warm felicitations.

DRAMATIC GOSSIP FROM LONDON

American Vaudeville Stars Invade English Music Halls.

(Special Correspondent.)

LONDON, July 1.—One has no need to look further than the London music halls for conclusive evidence that the American invasion is in full swing. So many American performers are filling the bills at the various houses that there is a danger of a native revolt against the all-conquering and popular aliens. At the Empire Stuart Barnes is "telling tall tales;" at the Hippodrome, Speedy, the high diver, the Curzon sisters, and Tom Hearn, the laziest juggler that ever was, are on the program, while Joseph Hart's sketch, "The Futurity Winner" tops the bill. Walter Kelly, the "Virginia Judge" is playing a return engagement at the Place and, at the same house, Maud Allan, who, after all, is an American by adoption, is drawing "smart" society with her Salome dance. Edward Clarke and his six singing and dancing American "Widows" are in the middle of a run at the Oxford, while Helen Trix, who, I believe, hails from California, is performing with the aid of her piano at the Tivoli. At the Coliseum the Musical Johnsons are stirring British blood with George Cohan's "Popularity" and the "The American Patrol."

The Curzon sisters have run up against that maternal old body, the London county council, which has declared that the performance of the two pretty American girls is too dangerous to be done without a net. Of course, the daring act is not so thrilling with the safety web, beneath, but orders are orders and the net has been put up in the Hippodrome.

Julian Rose, the Hebrew impersonator, who has been filling music hall engagements in England for some months past, has been engaged for the next Christmas pantomine at the Lyceum. Up to a week or so ago, Rose was "yarn-spinning" at the Pavilion and earlier in the year he was seen at the Coliseum. Just where he will come in in "Little Red Riding Hood," which is to be the coming pantomine at the Lyceum, it is difficult to say, but almost anything is possible to the writers of this popular and essentially British form of entertainment.

Rose had an unpleasant experience last week in Manchester. On the opening night of his engagement he was "booed" by some boys in the gallery so persistently that he was compelled to retire and the audience missed the adventures of "Levinsky at the wedding." The rest of the week, however, Rose made one of his greatest hits in the history of the Manchester house and was immediately signed for a return engagement. Rose appeared consoled when I told him that Albert Chevalier, undoubtedly one of the most popular of English music hall performers, had a like experience in the same theater some years ago.

The production in Paris of "Peter Pan," with Pauline Chase in the title role, J. M. Barrie on hand to superintend the production and Charles Frohman behind the scenes to see that things were all right and incidentally to keep his eye on the "house," turned out well. Although the cash receipts were not glittering, Frohman, who ought to know, says he is perfectly satisfied and that later he will take the company to Paris for a regular run. It was a joy to some of the Americans who turned up for the occasion to drop into Maxim's and find therein Nat Goodwin. Nat always likes the Gay City better than London for a holiday, perhaps because of the London habit of closing everything tight at half an hour after midnight.

Cheap prices have proved a failure in West End London. Oscar Asche and Lily Brayton, who opened three weeks ago at the Aldwych with reduced summer prices, closed the doors of the Kingsway playhouse last Saturday night. They started with a new play, "The Two Pins," which pleased Charles Frohman so much that he jumped at the American rights, but which bored the English public so much that they neglected that extremely important adjunct of the theater—the box office. At the end of two weeks, Asche and his popular wife put one one of their old standbys, "The Taming of the Shrew," but even that seemed hocdooed by the reduction in prices.

Frohman has no plans for filling the boards of the Aldwych and unless something turns up in the meantime it will remain idle until Seymour Hicks and Ellaline Terriss come there after the first of the year in a new comedy. The American manager, however, has hopes that another manager will take the house off his hands for the fall.

Although Lena Ashwell has been left out in the cold in the formation of the West End Managers' association, presumably because of her sex, she can give many of the members of that body cards and spades and then beat them at running a playhouse. She has just closed her first season at he little Kingsway theater, which she took over nine months ago, and her management has been remarkable not alone for her own personal triumph, but for two really clever plays—"Irene Wycherley" and "Diana of Dobson's." Furthermore, these plays were not only discovered by Miss Ashwell, but she discovered the authors as well, for they were unknown before the leading English emotional actress introduced them to London playgoers. Furthermore her management of the theater in front of the footlights as well as behind them has been marked by an intelligence and enterprise that many of the other London managers would be well-advised in imitating. JOHN AVA CARPENTER.

Coming Events.

At the Boyd this week an old-time comedy drama is to be given a hearing as a change from the modern society drama that has held sway since the beginning of the season. "Out of the Fold," a four-act play by Loudin McCormick, is to be the bill, presented under the personal direction of Mr. J. Francis Kirk. The play tells a wholesome tale of life among the homely folks of a quiet country village, with the hero and the villain and the heroine as the triangle. It is a play of character studies, and as such, gives every member of the company a fine chance. Mr. Morrison will be the hero, a young school master, and Miss Fleming will have the heroine. Mr. Beamish and Mr. Poulter have good parts, and all the others are well situated. The first performance will be given this afternoon, and the piece will run all week, with matinees on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Another week's run of the superb motion pictures that the Burwood is offering this summer to thoroughly satisfied crowds will be ushered in this afternoon with an entire change of program, far superior in quality and length to any similar exhibition ever attempted in Omaha. One of the most pleasing and comforting features which has as much to do with the enjoyment of the programs as have the programs themselves is the excellent ventilating system in operation during the hours of exhibition—1 to 5 and 7 to 11 daily. The theater is open on three sides, and by an ingenuous arrangement and the proper location of numerous electric fans, a constant breeze of fresh air is maintained. So very few electric light are used during the picture displays that the heat from them is of no consequence. By actual observation, during the heated days of the last week, it was found that the temperature in the Burwood averaged twenty-three degrees lower than the temperature outside the theater, thus discounting 59 per cent of all of Omaha's front porch and hammock combinations which seem to be the "dyed-in-the-wool" standard of summer evening comfort for those who are too stubborn to make a test of the Burwood's cooling atmosphere and satisfying performance. One may sit in the spacious Burwood and enjoy the heartiest of laughter with not the slightest discomfort, a condition not to be expected in the low-ceilinged, cramped, stuffy, illy-ventilated stores, where near-displays of moving pictures are given before perspiring audiences. An hour and a half spent at the Burwood is just that much time devoted to absolute comfort and thorough enjoyment. The program starting today is to continue inclusive of next Wednesday evening, and will contain many subjects bran new to lovers of high-class motion photography.

The attraction at the Air Dome for the coming week will be the four-act drama "In the Shadow of Darkness." Cyrus Blenkarn, an old inventor, has been compelled to sell his inventions to his employer, Joseph Chandler. The scene of the play is laid in that section of England where pottery and chinaware is manufactured. Chandler's son becomes infatuated with the inventor's daughter and his father, learning of this, sends his son away. Blenkarn, by a lucky invention, gets the upper hand of the merchant and compels him to see justice done to his daughter. Mr. Hillman will have the leading part of Cyrus Blenkarn, a part with which he is thoroughly familiar. The vaudeville specialties between acts have been causing much attention and the management has engaged numerous professional acts for the coming weeks. Performances start promptly at 8:30.

Judging from the large attendance the last few days, hot weather is all Manawa needs to draw the people, and the increased patronage is very encouraging to the management. Their expectations are for record-breaking crowds during July and August. Several special features have been placed on the daily park program, including the popular attraction, dancing, this amusement proving such a great success throughout the eastern resorts. The dance platform extends out over the lake so that on the hottest evenings this diversion can be enjoyed without the least discomfort. The Manawa management are congratulating themselves upon having purchased such a large stock of new bath suits at the beginning of the season, for the patronage at Manhattan beach for the past few nights has been so great that there were not enough old suits to meet the demand. The fine string orchestra at the Kursaal every evening adds greatly to the attractiveness of this feature. Another new "stunt" that will undoubtedly please all lovers of music is a rag time concert to be given every Thursday night by the Manawa band. These programs were started last Thursday and proved a great drawing card. At the casino there will be presented a novel feature that few will care to miss. Eldridge, the trick violinist, who has been on the eastern vaudeville stage for many years, will make his initial appearance in the west Sunday night at the Manawa theatre. This clever musician imitates many different birds and musical instruments on his violin and in all offers a very pleasing act.

Home Life With a Modern Circus

CIRCUS life is not without its reward or charm. The work is hard, but the life is in the open, when the fields and trees are green, and the skies distill health for all nature. Husbands, wives, sons daughters, uncles and aunts travel together, and like the snail, take their home with them. These homes are in sleeping cars, and necessarily modest in space, but they are made to bloom cheerily by the domestic pride and taste of their tenants.

With Ringling Brothers shows the married couples occupy opposite sections, and a natural desire for neatness leads each to decorate with the fanciful things found in a home sleeping room, like slipper cases, tiny silken window curtains, little cabinets for toilet articles in racks upon the bulkheads, snowy counterpanes, and other dainty things of comfort and ornament.

An unwritten law holds every performer to a strict accountability for the tidiness of his apartment and the slovenly one is left severely alone, if not eventually driven away. Such a one is never invited to the little feasts, musicales, parties and many other kind of amusements fitted to so cramped quarters. The cozy corner car called the library, is supplied with standard books, magazines and writing tables. On the Sunday runs of the show, usually the longest of the week, the women make chocolate and tea for the men and serve delicacies.

Have Many Clubs.

The library is really the living room for the Pullmans' big family. There are twenty-two of these with Ringling Brothers' shows, occupied by the performers and business staff. There are card clubs, a Woman's club, Clowns' club, Cosmopolitan club, Charity guild and Literary society in the social life of the circus colony.

The Clowns' club is unique and governed by stern rules. To be eligible one must have seen five years with a first class circus. He must be strictly temperate and known to the proposing members as a man who has contributed to the honor of his profession by inventing new business and successful comedy work. Of the fifty clowns with Ringling Brothers' circus only thirty-two are members. A number of so-called clowns are merely understudies, qualifying for a higher position later. These fellows must walk carefully and are a hardy, sensible bunch.

Al Miaco, the oldest clown in the business, who worked years ago with Tony Pastor and Dan Rice, is president of this odd club, and George Hartzell, the son of a Quaker City clergyman, and a college degree man, is vice president. The club has over $300 in its treasury, which it plans to invest in books bearing lightly and gravely upon their ancient and honorable profession.

The guild with the circus has sent this season, young as it is, two barrels of simple and useful articles to organizations that care for the poor. Circus people risk their lives every day, and are keenly sympathetic toward those in distress. After dinner there is a little time left before the evening show, and then the women come together in shady corners, fetch out their embroidery and fancy work and plain sewing and talk of everything except their business, which topic is forbidden.

Glimpse on the Inside.

The feminine touch of refinement is to be seen about the living part of the circus tents as well as in the cars. The dressing room has no hardwood floor, nor soft carpets, but you will find cool matting stretched over the raw grass of the show ground. Each artist surrounds its little square of ground with portieres, and gives an individual touch of color to each spot. On the sides of the tent wall and within reach are pinned and hung hats of every color and shape; bodices, ribbons, flowers chiffon and spangles; long shirts and short skirts, and tarleton ballet skirts. The idea of tidiness and good order is all pervading.

In the men's dressing room, while the little dainty touches of the feminine nature are wanting, there is the same strict regard of every man and everything in place. There is no profanity or loud talking. The fraternal feeling is strong among them, much more so than among any other class of amusement workers.

The Cosmopolitan club is a new organization with Ringling Bros. Very few of its members speak English, and they stumble helplessly. It is a polyglot crowd, mostly newcomers, working far away from home, and needing just such fellowship. One of the best players in the base ball club with the show is an official in this social group. Another is earning money as a gymnast to pay his way through a theological course in his native country. At Peterboro, Ill., is located a former Ringling clown, who worked for his license as a preacher the same way. He has built his church from a membership of thirty to 200 members, and this good work has been accomplished in less than three years. There is a strong religious tendency among circus people. Nearly every sect is represented in the mixed colony of 1,200, and the seventh day of the week is regarded reverently.

How They Spend Sunday.

When the big show spends Sunday in a city, a very small percentage of the people refrain from going to church, and when services are held in the cars or on the grounds, you will find all races, whatever their belief present.

Of course where there are so many continentals, nearly 200—the spirit of pleasure seeking shows itself after the religious observances of the morning. The Orientals are hungry for knowledge of the bustling American people and their ways. They love money and are eager to learn new ways of making it. When they return to their beloved countries they all expect—and it is pretty safe bet—to have enough saved from their earnings here to shine and do things there. They roam and ride about in groups with eyes and ears open, taking in everything, and get back to the cars late, tired and contented.

The English contingent, which is strong in number, is great for country tramping and sailing. If there is an athletic meet, or our door games of any kind at hand, which they care to witness or participate in, the sun is shining blandly for them, and they like it better than ale or a pipe.

The Germans are sociable and visit a good deal among their coutrymen on Sunday. The Latin groups, Italian and Spanish, like the parks and shows—any place where there is gaiety and music. In the evening they will liven up things with their musical instruments and fine voices.

The Japs are an aloof lot, mixing little, and seldom leave the cars. They are great readers. On the Pacific coast, where their race is well represented, they open up more, and spend the Christian day of rest among their people.

The Russian and French hobnob together, usually in the part of a city where their countrymen congregate, and dine and sing patriotic songs until nature cries for sleep.

The lakes, rivers, parks, base ball and theaters absorb most of the American born on Sunday. All races seem anxious to get away into new surroundings and occupy themselves with different thoughts and interests. None ever practice their specialties on Sunday, and yet during the week they are at it every spare moment to keep eye and nerve and muscle in the right pitch for finished work.

Children With the Show.

Of the 1,200 people with Ringling Bros., fifty are children. Many are the sons and daughters of performers—in a sense born to the business. Others are the children of relatives, and some are apprenticed. The boys and girls go to school, and study with greater zest because of splendid physical health, and the six months' separation from school routine. The boys and girls with Ringling Bros. have special comforts, and are taught between shows and on long runs, by special instructors, paid by the management, and though this does not allow a great deal of time, it is surprising how fast these young people learn.

It takes all kinds of people to make a circus, but the good predominate. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Ringling organization, the model of the world.

This is their twenty-fifth year in the business, and they are honoring the event in the remarkable program of the show which bears their name. They had to fight every inch of their way to the top, and it was a battle for the strong. From the start they were square and right doing, and as they made money they improved their show. They would not tolerate sharp practice of any kind and the world soon learned to know and like them. They now dominate the business, and employ 4,000 people. Their success has left a moral imprint upon the circus business which everyone must see and feel appreciatively.

AMUSEMENTS. AMUSEMENTS.

CIRCUS OMAHA TUESDAY JULY 14

THE ONE SUPREME SHOW OF THE UNIVERSE

Admission Tickets and numbered reserved seats will be on sale show day at the store of the MYERS-DILLON DRUG CO., at exactly the same price charged in the regular ticket wagons on the show grounds.

NOT UNTIL MONDAY, JULY 13

SHOW GROUNDS, 20TH AND PAUL STREETS

ADMISSION ADULTS 50c, CHILDREN 25c.

MILE LONG--ALL NEW--STREET PARADE

EVERY MORNING AT 10:30 Immense Chariots, Dens of Wild Beasts, Hundreds of Plumed, Gayly Trapped Horses, Richly Costumed Characters, Kings, Queens, Knights, Ladies, Soldiers and Civilians, Marching Elephants, Caravan of Camels, Military and Clown Bands, etc., all Moving in Majestic March Under Iridescent Sheen of a Thousand Shimmering Banners. Ten Acres of Waterproof Tents—Come, Rain or Shine.

Free Exhibition on Show Lot After the Parade

2 PERFORMANCES DAILY—MATINEE BEGINS 2 O'CLOCK. NIGHT SHOW AT 8 O'CLOCK. DOORS OPEN ONE HOUR EARLIER.

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Today at 2:30—All Week—Tonight at 8:15

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A Tired Man Fresh
A Hot Man Cool
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$13 A YEAR

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BASE BALL

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MONDAY, JULY 13, LADIES DAY GAMES CALLED, 3:45.

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GREAT VARIETY OF NEW FEATURES THIS WEEK

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AIRSHIP "AMERICA"

OMAHA'S POLITE RESORT

Will make its first ascension from the Krug Park Arena today between the hours of 5 and 8 P. M.; weather and other conditions being favorable. Daily ascensions will be made during the coming week between the above named hours.

FINN'S GREATER OMAHA BAND

Miss Lydia Pallansch, Soprano Soloist, In New Vocal Selections.

THE HIRSCHHORNS will close their engagement This Evening.

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GRAND CONCERT BY OMAHA MAENNERCHOR

Miss Elizabeth Casteel, Soprano Soloist.

Admission—Afternoon, 10c.

Evening, 25c.