

# A HISTORY OF THE PATERSON YMCA CIRCUS CLUB



## Prologue

I wish to dedicate this work to those in the Club who were mentors to me: Charlie and Lena Egg, Eleanor Egg, Pauline Wachter, George Puglia, Angelo Buono, Joe Fillenger, Tom Dunkley, Buck Newstrom; and also a custodian at the Paterson YMCA, Mr. William Staney - a godly man of great wisdom.

Work on this history was started in the year 2006 AD (in the year of our Lord) when the Club had been out of business for over 40 years. As a result, much of the history of the Club (especially in the early years) has been impossible to recover. As I started this work I soon found, much to my dismay, that programs from the various home shows were extremely unreliable. Names were omitted (or appeared when they should not have) and were often misspelled. In one program even the name Paterson was misspelled. Therefore to write a completely accurate history is very difficult, if not impossible. I have, however, worked hard to make this history as complete and accurate as I can. I wish to thank those who have helped me to recover as much information as possible: David (Bones) Lewis, Ursula Pelle, John Grubb, Bob Gras, Edith Boher, Norma Schadeegg, Arlene Scheetz, Joseph Temple, and the staff at the Paterson YMCA - especially Larry Gutlerner and Judy Hatch.

I was associated with the Circus Club over a period of about 15 years and participated in a wide variety of ways - all the way from having a bit part in my first Home Show, to directing three Home Shows. I was a young teenager at the time of my first show and 'came of age' while I was a member. I was a malcoordinated youngster. The kind of kid that everyone laughed at in gym class at school. However, when I started with the Circus Club no one laughed at or derided me. Instead, they help me improve my performance.

Being a member of the Club was one of the most valuable experiences I had as a young person. I found out that you don't present a two hour circus show without things going wrong - sometimes tragically wrong! In one show it got to be 'gut check time.' Seeing these difficulties unfold and learning to deal with them has been one of the most valuable lessons of my formative years.

Also I learned that there is a time for talk and a time for action. In the preparation of a show a lot of talk (exchange of ideas and debate) is essential to getting the best possible outcome. However, once the show starts the time for talk is over. It is time to do what has been planned and practiced while adjusting quickly as unforeseen difficulties arise.

There is no question that the Paterson YMCA Circus Club shaped my life in many positive ways.

*jerry calkin*

## **Introduction**

During the great depression of the 1930's the Paterson YMCA raised money by staging an annual circus each year from 1933 up to and including 1939. Professional and local acts were included in these shows. As an out-growth of this, the Paterson YMCA Circus Club was organized in 1939.

The first Annual Home Show was presented in April of 1940. It was clear that this was to be a continuing organization because the 1940 show was presented as the 'First Annual.' Twenty-four home shows were presented in the twenty-seven year lifetime of the Club. Some years the Home Show was presented on one night. Other years there were two presentations - Friday night and Saturday night. There were also many years when the Home show consisted of three presentations - Friday night, Saturday Night, and a Saturday afternoon matinee. All of these shows were presented in the main gymnasium of the Paterson YMCA at its location at 128 Ward Street.

Due to World War II no Home Show was presented in 1945 or 1946 because of a lack of manpower. All of the Home Shows were presented in the month of April except for: 1954 when the show was in March, 1963 when the show was in June, 1964 & 1965 when the show was in May, and 1961, and 1962 when the Show was presented in August.

The club started out as a very structured organization. The constitution included provisions for monthly meetings, monthly dues (*ten cents*), and voting on prospective new members. As the years passed, the Club became less and less structured and when the final Home Show was presented in May of 1965 the organization had morphed into a gymnastics club.

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# Activity in 1940

## Chapter 1

### The Pre-war Years

It seems clear that Jack Ault, (See Chapter 8 for more information about Jack Ault) Charlie & Lena Egg were all instrumental in the formation of the club. Also, there were, with out a doubt, many road shows (Anything from a full scale circus to a show where a few members of the club participated.) presented during these years. However, only one can be documented with certainty - a show at the Paterson YMCA.

#### 1st Annual Home Show - April 13th 1940



Paterson YMCA Circus Club in 1940

Front Row (from the left): Arlene Scheetz, Ronald Scheetz, John Provenzale, (little girl in front of John: unknown) unknown, Dorothy Locker, unknown. 2nd Row: All unknown. 3rd Row: Thomas Dunning, Elmer Kassner, unknown, Joseph Temple, Sidney Allbrecht. 4th Row: unknown, unknown, unknown, Lena Egg, unknown, Charles Egg. 5th Row: All unknown. Last Row: Joe Jackson, Jim Cox, Phil Temple, Bill Sweetman, Jim DeSerio, and Steward Zabriskie (order unknown).



# Activity in 1940

**Ringmaster** - Thomas Dunning

## **Circus Club Performers**

Edmondo Porro	Sam Rosenfeld	Jean LaSalle
Fred Spada	Charles Egg	Sam Solomon
Charles Karnila	Lena Egg	Jack McCoy
Lillian Boblick	Eleanor Egg	Louise Scheetz
Robert Boblick	Vince Libonn	Ronald Scheetz
Dorothy Locker	Buzz Korn	Arlene Scheetz
Chester Ragusa	Philip Temple	Richard Hagopian
Joseph Jackson	Bill Sweetman	John Franke
Russell Walters	James DeSerio	Thomas Dunning
Anna Marie Hubler	Verna Derks	Jack Ault
Stewart Zabriskie	Herbert Rodgers	Connie D'Argenzio
Dorothy Derks	John Panzer	Joseph Agnes
Elmer Kassner	Sidney Allbrecht	

## **Program**

**THE GRAND ENTRY** - In which everyone from little Ronnie to Charles Egg throw out their chests in proud parade.

**MILITARY DRILL** - A novelty drill combining marching, tap dancing and baton swinging

**HUMAN PYRAMIDS** - Daring performance embracing new altitudinal records

**SENSATIONAL STRONG MEN** - Will give a remarkable demonstration of feats of strength and balance

**FROLICSOME CLOWNS** - In absurdities and comical stunts

**PRESENTING THE ELBETT DANCE STUDIO**

**TRAPEZE ARTISTS** - In an amazing demonstration of strength and skill

**ADAGIO DANCE** - A fascinating number - gracefully different and impressive, featuring Dorothy Locker

**A SLIDE FOR LIFE** - Featuring Jean LaSalle and Connie D'Argenzio

-- INTERMISSION --

**SWINGING LADDERS** - A bevy of beautiful girls in aerial ballet

**CLUB JUGGLING** - Clever and distinctive, featuring Sidney Allbrecht, Elmer Kassner, and Joseph Temple

**THE CLOWNS** - Demonstrating why you should visit your dentist twice a year

**THE TUMBLING GYPSIES** - In a beautiful display of terpsichore and fast tumbling

**HAND BALANCING** - An act of nerve and muscular dexterity by Herbert Rodgers and John Panzer

**CHARLES EGG & CO.** - Featuring six year old Arlene Scheetz in a death defying dare devil dive from dizzy heights (During this act Charlie Egg would look around and say, "Where is Arlene?" Arlene would reply from up on the running track where the Spotlights were located, "Here I am, Papa Egg." Then Charlie would say, "What are you doing up there? Get down here!" Then he would turn around with his back to her. At this point she would climb over the railing and jump. Then Charlie would turn around and catch her.)

**STATELY STATUES** - Eight groups of living art creations in dazzling statues of iridescent brilliancy

**Music furnished by** - Joe Jackson, Jim Cox, Phil Temple, Bill Sweetman, Jim DeSerio, and Steward Zabriskie

**Properties by** - Victor Loppe, Building Superintendent

# Activity in 1941

2nd Annual Home Show - April 15th & 16th 1941



Paterson YMCA Circus Club in 1941

Front Row (From the left): Elmer Kassner, Joseph Temple, Dorothy Locker, Sidney Albrecht, Arlene Scheetz, Ronald Scheetz. 2nd Row: unknown, Joan Salvato, unknown, unknown, Lena Egg, unknown, unknown, Eleanor Egg, unknown. 3rd Row: unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, Charles Egg, unknown, unknown, unknown.

## Circus Club Performers

Edmondo Porro  
Charles Egg  
Charles Karnila

Sam Rosenfeld  
Lena Egg  
Lillian Boblick

Carolyn Krattiger  
Eleanor Egg  
Dorothy Locker



# Activity in 1941 & 1942

Vince Libonn  
Russell Walters  
James DeSerio  
Jean LaSalle  
Louise Scheetz  
Robert Robertson  
Audrey Brown  
Joan Salvato  
John DeBlock  
Joseph Temple  
Phil D'Argenzio  
James Cox

Chester Ragusa  
Buzz Korn  
Herbert Rodgers  
Connie D'Argenzio  
Ronald Scheetz  
Jack Ault  
Grace Matchett  
George Funk  
Elmer Kassner  
Phil Temple  
Vincent Piscitelli

Joseph Jackson  
Steward Zabriskie  
Joseph Agnes  
Jack McCoy  
Arlene Scheetz  
Jean Lynch  
Matilda Van Hoorebeke  
Phil Leobold  
Sidney Allbrecht  
Steward Robinson  
John Provenzale

## Activity in 1942

3rd Annual Home Show - April 10th & 11th 1942

### Circus Club Performers

Edmondo Porro  
Charles Egg  
Vince Libonn  
Joseph Agnes  
Carolyn Krattiger  
Phil Temple  
Phil D'Argenzio  
Elmer Kassner  
Don B. Monro  
Jack McCoy  
Arlene Scheetz  
Audrey Brown  
Joan Salvato  
Irving Workhoven

Sam Rosenfield  
Lena Egg  
Chester Ragusa  
John DeBlock  
Joseph Hodgson  
Steward Robinson  
Vincent Piscitelli  
Joseph Temple  
Betty Syperda  
Louise Scheetz  
Robert Robertson  
Ray Beccari  
John Provenzale  
Ivan Reese

Charles Karnila  
Eleanor Egg  
Tom Dunning  
Paul Ewen  
Russell Walters  
Joseph Jackson  
Chapin Boyd  
Sidney Allbrecht  
Connie D'Argenzio  
Ronald Scheetz  
Jack Ault  
Grace Matchett  
Thomas Dunn

### Elbert Studio

Nancy Johnson  
Arlene Scheetz  
Grace Redyke  
Paul Ewen  
Gloria Gilmore  
Louis Dean

Ronald Scheetz  
Leona Calamia  
Betty Berndt  
Ellen Mogan  
Norma Van Seters  
Shirley Foley

Sally Ann Brustlin  
Lorraine McWilliams  
Marie Berndt  
Doris Gilmore  
Connie Simpson



# Activity in 1942 & 1943

## Acknowledgements

PRINTED PROGRAM - Clarence T. Gordon

REFRESHMENTS - Ralph B. Tompkins & Members of the Boys' Division

PROPERTIES - Victor Lope, Building Superintendent

DECORATIONS - Norman Wood

USHERS - William Wright & Members of the Community Branch Co-ed Clubs

FINANCE - Alex Boyd & Sue Rogers

SIDE SHOW - Don B. Monro, Ivan Reese, Jack McCoy, & Milton Goldhersh

COSTUMES - Eleanor Egg

SPOT LIGHTS - William Stanley (Many years later in 1956 William Stanley will play an important role in seeing that the 1956 Home Show occurred. See 'The 1956 Home Show' in Chapter 5.)

## Activity in 1943

4th Annual Home Show - April 16th & 17th 1943

### Circus Club Performers

John DeBlock

Eleanor Egg

Vince LiBonn

Thomas A. Dunning

Sidney Allbrecht

Louise Scheetz

Audrey Brown

Harry Kuther

Andrew Touhy

Charles Egg

Carolyn Krattiger

Jack McCoy

Paul Ewen

Elmer Kassner

Ronald Scheetz

Grace Matchett

John Provenzale

Roberta Reardon

Lena Egg

Edmondo Porro

Chester Ragusa

Joseph Temple

Betty Syperda

Arlene Scheetz

Joan Salvato

Don B. Monro

### Eleanor Egg Studio

Roberta Reardon

Grace Redyke

Connie Simpson

Lois Costa

Louis Salvato

Kathleen Koehler

Ellen Morgan

Marilyn Courter

Ellen Christler

Dolores Pattinelli

Joan Simpson

Doris Gilmour

Shirley Foley

Joan DeBlock

Joan Pulford

Betty Berndt

Lorraine M. Williams

Beatrice Gerard

Leonia Colania

Joan Andria

Carol Lee Koehler

Janet Schillinger

Sally Ann Brustlin

Shirley Ann Rheiner

# Activity in 1943 & 1944

Gail Abbott  
Doris Anderson  
Marlene Gasser

Nancy Johnstone  
Penny Bakey  
Marie Berndt

Grace Matchett  
Florence McCarthy  
Gloria Gilmour

## Publicity

M. A. Holmes  
David Lyle  
Charles L. Garrettson

George Passloff  
Arthur Guertin  
Charles Egg

Hebert M. Schmidt  
Robert Williams  
A. M. Chilson

## Acknowledgements

PRINTED PROGRAM - John C. McCoy Jr. & Elmer Ficks

REFRESHMENTS - Ralph B. Tompkins & Members of the Boys' Division

DECORATIONS - Norman Wood

PROPERTIES - Victor Lope, Building Superintendent

USHERS - YMCA Girl Service Organization & Hawthorne Baton Twirling Group

FINANCE - H. Howard Schoonmaker, Nick Pelrose, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Chatmore, & Clarence T. Gorden

SIDE SHOW - Fred Eyster, Jack McCoy, & YMCA Aquatic Club

COSTUMES - Eleanor Egg

SPOT LIGHTS - William Stanley

## Activity in 1944

4th Annual Home Show - April 14th & 15th 1944

### Circus Club Performers

Charles Egg  
Carolyn Krattiger  
Chester Ragusa  
Ronald Scheetz  
Grace Matchett  
Joseph Keller  
Leonard Boslund  
Barbara Worth  
Nancy Johnston  
Richard Worth  
Ruth Aronowitz

Lena Egg  
Edmondo Porro  
Paul Ewen  
Arlene Scheetz  
Joan Salvato  
William Sherman  
John Pierzak  
George Dimaro  
Vera Vohwinkle  
Jerry Cohen  
Sam Rosenfeld

Eleanor Egg  
Vince Libonn  
Louise Scheetz  
Audrey Brown  
John Provenzale  
Ted Brahs  
George Puglia  
Sidney Rosenstone  
James Salvato  
Joseph DePietro  
Ray Beccari

# Activity in 1944

## Elbert Studio

Connie Simpson	Joan Salvato	Grace Redyke
Dolores Pettinelli	Lois Costa	Joan Andora
Doris Gilmour	Gloria Gilmour	Lorraine McWilliams
Louis Salvato	Marelene Gasser	Evelyne Leonard
Leona Calamia	Marilyn Dalcin	Patty Griffith
Agnes Griffith	Beatrice Gerard	Kathleen Koehler
Gail Albort	Phyllis Wicky	Edith Wicky
Nan Gilmour	Alice Oppelaar	Betty Brendt
Shirley Foley	Sally Ann Brustlin	Joan Pulford
Ellen Morgan	Rosemary Morgan	George Schillinger
Jeannie Schillinger	Rita Zimmer	Shirley Rhiener
Joyce Jenisen	Theresa Koyak	Tommie Calamia
Joan DeBlock	Janet Bouma	Nancy Troll
Marion Uiasso	Arlene Scheetz	Ronald Scheetz
Carolee Koehler	Janet Schillinger	

## Acknowledgements

PRINTED PROGRAM - John C. McCoy, Jr., Charles Egg, & Sue Keim

REFRESHMENTS - William Ranklin, Elmer Ficks, Guitano Dittamo, & Members of the Boys Division

PROPERTIES - Victor Lope, Building Superintendent

DECORATIONS - Norman Wood

COSTUMES - Eleanor Egg

SIDE SHOW - Robert G. Bredenberg, George Folan, & Aquatic Club

MIDWAY - John C. McCoy, Jr., & Cliftonite Co-Ed Club

COLOR GUARD - Civil Air Patrol Cadets (One of the cadets was Jerry Krawitz. After the war Jerry would become a prominent member and leader in the Club.)

BAND CONCERT at the SATURDAY MATINEE - Brino Accordion Band

SPOT LIGHTS - William Stanley

PUBLICITY - Robert Williams, *Chairman*, M. A. Holmes, George Passloff, David Lyle, Charles Egg, Arthur Guertin, Charles Garrettson, Albert Klaner, Edward B. Haines, David Golden, Lester Fountain, Ted Webbe, & A. M. Chilson.

CIRCUS BAND - B.Duncan Boss, Virginia Mastenbrook, Ray Gerard, Arthur Natole, Bob Hoedemaker, Anthony Matarazzo, & Leonard Johnson.

FINANCE - Walter A. Lindell, Muriel Vogel, & Alida Borduin

USHERS & USHERETTES - "Y's" Men's Club, YMCA Girl's Service Organization, & Hawthorne High School Baton Twirling Club

PROPERTY BOYS - John Michalski, Michael Koszenwnik, George Massic, Joseph Koszenwnik, Robert Guidice, Thomas Scott, Ray Tonchen, Paul Sanford

BATON TWIRLERS - Betty Bogertman, Shirley Metcalf, Joan Traub

# Activity in 1947

## Chapter 2

### The Club under the Leadership of Buck Newstrom

After the break due to World War II, the Club was reborn under the leadership of Carroll 'Buck' Newstrom. Buck was a veteran of the Army Air Corps, a graduate of Springfield College, (1940) a superb acrobat, and a dynamic leader. Unfortunately (for the Club) he decided to return to the service at the end of 1947.

#### Road Shows

Haledon, Radburn, and Oakland. No dates available.

#### 6th Annual Home Show - April 18th & 19th 1947

**Director** - Buck Newstrom

**Ringmaster** - Al Chilson

#### Circus Club Performers

Edmundo Porro - President

Vince Libonn - Vice President

John Provenzale - Treasurer

Americo Lemma  
Arlene Scheetz  
Pauline Wachter  
Eileen Donnelly  
Elmer Kassner  
Ronald Scheetz  
Bobby Worth  
Jerry Krawitz  
George Folon

Charles Egg  
Delores Pettinelli  
Marjorie Newstrom  
Juanita Cevette  
Joseph Temple  
Ruth Mattos  
Mike Oliva  
Richard Tescione  
Doug Lawrence

Lena Egg  
Connie Barbagallo  
Dave Davenport  
Al Schmid  
Frank Hebda  
Red Shirley  
Frank Bezine  
George Puglia  
Ben Yurash



# Activity in 1947

Irene Yurash  
Jay Ambrose  
William Leardi  
Kay Leslie

William Sherman  
Tom Dunkley  
Henry Luyke  
Carl Stelzen

Shirley Manger  
Chester Ragusa  
Ruthe Arriorowitz  
Jack Stelzen

## Junior Leaders Corps

Don Ploch - President  
Orie Passarelli - Vice President  
Bill Thompson - Secretary-Treasurer

Harold Christiansen  
Don Sweetman  
Louis Jweid  
Stewart Thomson

Don Myers  
Paul Sweetman  
Phillip DeMaurco

Don Shields  
Ronald Pompei  
Bill Generals

## Saturday Tumbling Class

Jerry Calkin (A scrawny kid of little promise. Buck only put him in the show because he showed up every week.)

## Circus Club Instructors

'Buck' Newstrom - Apparatus, Group Numbers, & Special Effects  
Edmondo Perro - Clowns  
Charles Egg - Tumbling, Specialties, Balancing, & the Unusual  
Lena Egg - Trapeze  
George Puglia - Apparatus  
John Provenzale - Springboard, & Tumbling

## Musicians

Ruth Prall  
Gary Rozema  
Roland Sweetman

William Knorr  
Tice Wiegel  
Edward Prommel

Lorraine & Redyke (*sic*)  
Jacob Okma  
James Salsbury

## Soloists

Dr. Charles Nuzzolo - Piano    William Knorr - Cornet    Don Tescione - vocal

# Activity in 1947

## Music Arrangement

Carroll Newstrom & Ruth Black

## Color Guard

c/o U.S.A. Recruiting Station, Post Office, Paterson, NJ

M/S John Coleman  
S/S Paul DeLuiss

T/S Leon Robins

S/S Herman Wolthoff

## Electricians

Nick Saletto, Manager  
Joe Castagliola

John Ward  
Jack Martin

Jack Smith  
Joe Meola

## Acknowledgements

COSTUMES - Marjorie Newstrom, Connie Barbagallo, & Lena Egg

PUBLIC ADDRESS - Jim Parker, Mgr, and Triangle Y's Men's Club

SEATING - Don Monro

TICKETS - Abe Roughgarden

CONCESSIONS AND VENDORS - Sam Johnson, William Rankin, & Boys Department Members

PROPERTIES - Victor Loppe, Building Superintendent

USHERS - Arthur Martin & Members of the Y. P. Division

COAT CHECKING - Dick Burns

FINANCES - Bob Malezie & George Pfeifer

ROUSTABOUTS - Phalanx Club, Bob Bredenberg, Mgr.

PROGRAMS - John McCoy & Crines Roughgarden

PUBLICITY - Al Chilson

PHOTOGRAPHY - Dr. Raymond Ploch

## Program

DISPLAY No. I - "The Grand Entry" the Entire Cast and "Old Glory"

DISPLAY No. II - "Olympic Drill" YMCA Jr. Leader Corps

DISPLAY No. III - Spazm No. 1 "HAM to HAM" Featuring Bal & Zing

DISPLAY No. IV - "Gymnastique" Horizontal and Parallel Bar Precision

DISPLAY No. V - "The Whirling Dervishes" Introduced by Abdulah El Zebredah & Son (Abdulah El Zebredah was Charlie Egg dressed like an Arab. By magic he made a little boy appear and the little boy called for the tumblers to come out on the floor and tumble.)

# Activity in 1947

DISPLAY No. VI - "Men of Steel" Strength! - Force! - Power!

DISPLAY No. VII - "Cloud Ballet" Aerial Rhythmatics

DISPLAY No. VIII - Spazm No. 2 "Sandow & Hercules, Jr." Enough said?

DISPLAY No. IX - "Rhapsody in Bronze" A Salute to Youth - At Evening Performances Only (This is the only Home Show where the statuery was done in bronze rather than in silver.)

DISPLAY No. IX - "Rhapsody in Brass" Concert Cornetist - At Afternoon Performance Only

DISPLAY No. X - "Lucky and Leardi" Polish - Perfect - Precision

DISPLAY No. XI - "Combat" Junior Leaders Corps - Northern Division

DISPLAY No. XII - "Twenty Thumbs" Elmer & Joe

## The Tale of the Three Jugglers

In the very first Home Show in 1940 three jugglers appear - Sidney Allbrecht, Elmer Kassner, and Joseph Temple. (See them in the photo of the 1940 and 1941 cast in Chapter 1.) They appear again in the next three Home Shows. In 1944 they are missing from the roster. Presumably they were in the service. Here in 1947 two of them are back - Joseph Temple and Elmer Kassner. In 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, and 1952 all three appear again under the stage name: The Nessens. This is a strong indication that by this time they were doing professional engagements on a regular basis. After this they never appeared in another Home Show - and the Club was poorer for it.

DISPLAY No. XIII - "Bicycle Built for Two" Tandem, But Vertically So! (A tandem bicycle is used on the high wire. This would be the last time there was a high wire act in the Show until the fateful 1950 Show.)

DISPLAY No. XIV - "The Season Brothers & Protege's" Multiple Balancing

DISPLAY No. XV - Spasm No. 3 "Maude, PhD." Here We Go Again!

DISPLAY No. XVI - "Sophisticated Swing" featuring Lena Egg & Co.

## Lena Egg, the Grand Dame of the Trapeze

Even in 1947 Lena Egg was the 'Grand Dame' of the trapeze at the Paterson YMCA Circus Club. She was a talented trapeze artist. She was also involved in designing and making costumes for the Show, an instructor in the ladder act, ran an art studio in Haledon, and was the devoted wife of Charlie Egg. But there is more to the story than that. I learned the 'rest of the story' from her daughter, Eleanor, many years later.

Lena suffered from acrophobia! As Eleanor put it, "My mother was terrified anytime her feet were off the ground." However, her husband, Charlie, was a trapeze artist and she wanted to join him. So, she overcame her fear and not only joined him but became very accomplished in her own right. She faced many trials in her lifetime and handled them all with dignity and poise. She was a quality person - a blessing to all that knew her.

DISPLAY No. XVII - "Charles Egg & Co." Inimitable - Unpredictable

DISPLAY No. XVIII - "Anchors Aweigh" Finale

## The Iron Triangle

In the late 1940's into the early 1950's I observed in Paterson what I called the Iron Triangle - the Paterson YMCA Circus Club, the Dance Studio (operated by Eleanor Egg), and the Paterson Swiss Turnverein. These three organizations were very different from one another, with different structures, goals, and memberships. They did, however, reinforce each other with many individuals being active in two or more of the three. Thus, these three very different organizations, all pursuing their own agendas, rather than competing with each other, or being rivals, actually benefited each other.

# Activity in 1948

## Chapter 3

### The Marshall Sharretts Years

#### Activity in 1948

**7th Annual Home Show - April 16th & 17th 1948**  
Attendance: 959

**Director - Marshall G. Sharretts**  
**Ringmaster - A.M. Chilson**  
**Special Advisor - Robert G. Bredenberg**

#### Circus Club Instructors

Charles Egg - Tumbling, Balancing, Pyramids  
Lena Egg - Rings, Trapeze, Ladders  
George Puglia - Apparatus, Pyramids  
John Provenzale - Springboard, Tumbling  
Edmundo Porro - Clowns  
Lee Kuusela - Hat Juggling  
Marshall Sharrets - Statuary, Group Numbers

#### Circus Club Performers

George Puglia - President  
John Provenzale - Vice President  
Lee Kuusela - Secretary  
Jim Azzarella - Treasurer

Charles Egg	Lena Egg	Alvira Russo
Jerry Krawitz	Marlene Gasser	Carl Stelzen
Doug Lawrence	Aleta Kuusela	Joseph Temple
William Sherman	Shirley Manger	Elmer Kassner
Richard Tescione	Arlene Scheetz	Sidney Albrecht



# Activity in 1948

Ben Yurash	Pauline Wachter	Ann Mcloughlin
Bobby Bond	Alice Weinrich	Mike Oliva
Marilyn Bond	Irene Yurash	Jay Ambrose
Juanita Cvette	Dolores Joske	Ruthe Aranawitz
Eileen Donnelly	Marge Shaplo	Connie Barbagallo

## Jr. Leaders Corps

Harold Christiansen - President  
Don Myers - Vice President  
Ronald Pompei - Secretary- Treasurer  
Don Shields - Sgt.-at-Arms

Don Ploch	Thomas Howard	Alan Pfeifer
Paul Sweetman	Donald Verbeck	Joseph Dabagian
Orie Passarelli	Jerry Calkin	Bared Dabagian
Melvin Burwell	Edgar Lewis	Oskar Baumgartner

## Acknowledgements

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM - Jim Parker and the Triangle Y's Men's Club  
SEATING - Don Monro  
TICKETS - Abe Roughgarden  
CONCESSIONS AND VENDERS - John C. McCoy, Jr., William Rankin, Gaetano Dittamo, and Boy's Department Members  
PROGRAM - John C. McCoy, Jr., and Crines Roughgarden  
USHERS - Joseph Ruddley, and the Junior Y Council  
FINANCES - George Pfeifer  
ROUSTABOUTS - Phalanx Club  
PUBLICITY - Al Chilson  
MUSIC - Central High School Band; Joseph A. Cascelli, Director  
PROPERTIES - Vic Loppe, Building Superintendent  
LIGHTING - Nick Saletto  
PHOTOGRAPHY - Edward Both

## Program

DISPLAY No. 1 - The Grand Entry  
DISPLAY No. 2 - Katrina and Her Buddies  
DISPLAY No. 3 - "Y" Neighborhood Boys (This was a marching drill executed by the boys from the Gra-Y Boys gym class.)

# Activity in 1948 & 1949

DISPLAY No. 4 - Pyramid Building - Jr. Leader Corps

(See picture - upper right.)

DISPLAY No. 5 - The Manger Children and Stooage

(See picture - lower right. From the left, Charles Egg, the Manger Children, & Joe Keller.)

DISPLAY No. 6 - The Daring Slide For life

DISPLAY No. 7 - Swingmania - Rings, Ladders, & Trapeze

DISPLAY No. 8 - The Nessens - Indian Club Jugglers

DISPLAY No. 9 - The Educated Quadruped

DISPLAY No. 10 - Silver Statues - (Evening Performance Only)

DISPLAY No. 10 - Silver Spins - Baton Twirling (Afternoon Only)

DISPLAY No. 11 - Springmania - Tumbling

DISPLAY No. 12 - "Combat" - Jr. Leader Corps

DISPLAY No. 13 - Horizontal Bar - Parallel Bar - The Human Pinwheel

DISPLAY No. 14 - The Modern Sandow

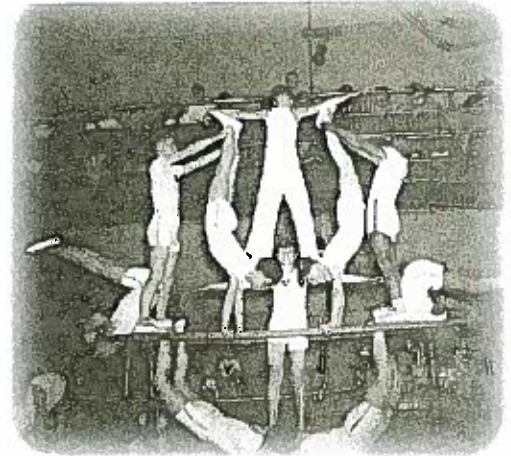
DISPLAY No. 15 - Two Guys and a Gal - Multiple Balancing

DISPLAY No. 16 - The Mad Hatters - Hat Juggling

DISPLAY No. 17 - The Minuet in Swing

DISPLAY No. 18 - Charles Egg and Company

DISPLAY No. 19 - The Grand Finale



## Activity in 1949

### Road Shows (Event, Attendance)

Packanack Lake - Girl Scout Show, 450

Orange YMCA - No data, 280

Montclair YMCA - No data, 150

Garfield YMCA - No data



**8th Annual Home Show - April 22nd & 23rd 1949**

Attendance: 1383

**Director - Marshall G. Sharretts**

**Ringmaster - A.M. Chilson**

**Special Advisor - Robert G. Bredenberg**

### Circus Club Performers

George Puglia - President

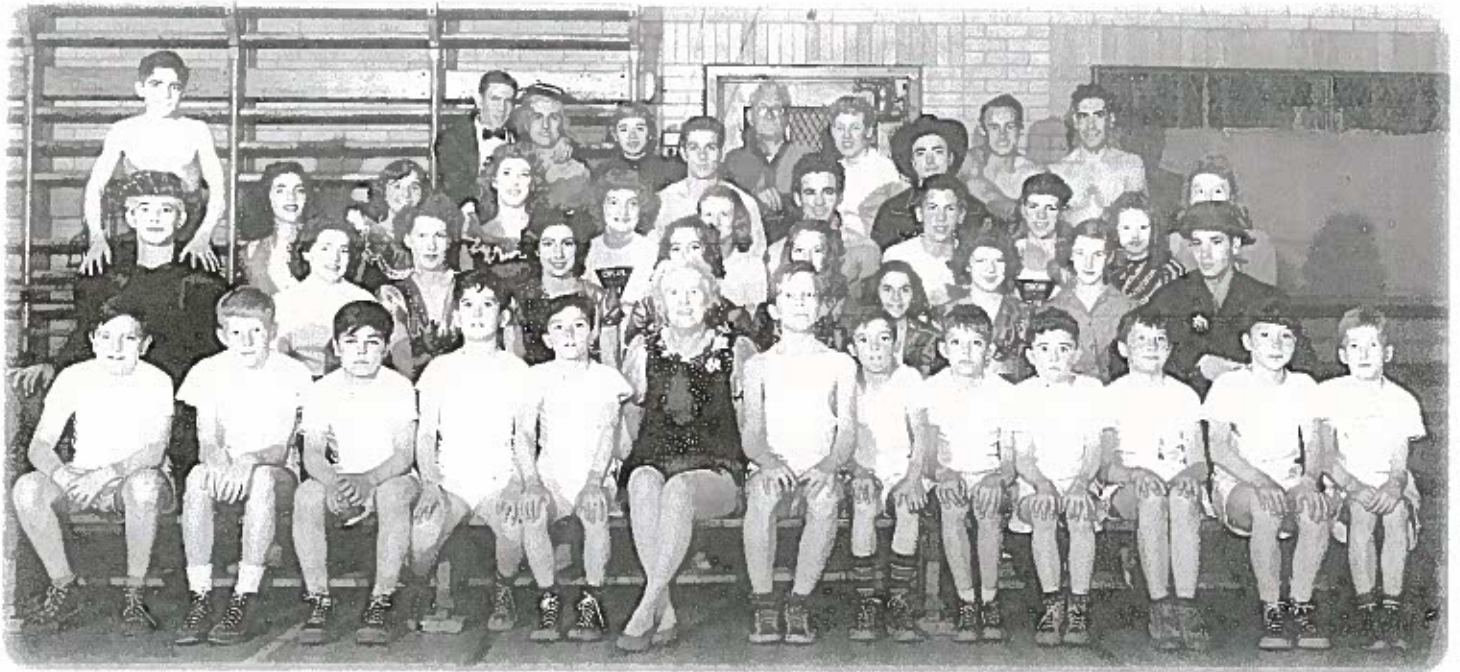
# Activity in 1949

Jerry Krawitz - Vice President  
 Alice Weinrich - Secretary

Sidney Albrecht  
 Jay Ambrose  
 Connie Barbagallo  
 Ann Cain  
 Jerry Calkin  
 Ann Campagna  
 John Dickson  
 Tom Dunn  
 Charles Egg  
 Lena Egg  
 Regina Fernandi  
 Marlene Gasser  
 Eleanor O'Neill

Dolores Joske  
 Elmer Kassner  
 Joseph Keller  
 Richard Kubiskey  
 Lee Kuusela  
 Aleta Kuusela  
 Shirley Manger  
 Billy Manger  
 Sara Lou Manger  
 Sandra Manger  
 Dorothy McCalation  
 Jacquelyn Newton

Mike Oliva  
 Manuel Pasoda  
 Barbara Pearson  
 John Provenzale  
 Arlene Scheetz  
 Carl Stelzen  
 William Sherman  
 Joseph Temple  
 Margie Wagon  
 Pauline Wachter  
 Helen Weiss  
 Donald Jordan



Paterson YMCA Circus Club in 1949

Front Row: Lena Egg in the center with the Gra-Y boys on either side (order not known). 2nd Row (from the left): Jerry Krawitz - with Richard Kubiskey sitting on his shoulders, Pauline Wachter, Unknown, Connie Barbagallo, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Kitty Cain, John Provenzale. 3rd Row: Unknown, Jay Ambrose, Unknown, Unknown, Arlene Scheetz, Joseph Dabagian, Jerry Calkin, Unknown, Unknown. 4th Row: Unknown, Tom Dunn. Last Row: Joseph Keller, George Puglia, Unknown, Charles Egg, Unknown, Carl Stelzen, James Azzarella.

# Activity in 1949

## Gra-Y Members

Bruce Beckman	Joseph Jiglio	Robert Ramsey
Charles Beckman	Edward Kulcsar	Jack Reed
Robert Bulmer	Robert Lepre	Edward Swan
Ronald Casapulla	John Lyons	Robert Thompson

## Circus Club Instructors

Charles Egg - Tumbling, Balancing, Pyramids  
Lena Egg - Rings, Trapeze, Ladders  
George Puglia - Apparatus, Pyramids  
John Provenzale - Tumbling  
Lee Kuusela - Ladders, Hat Juggling  
Connie Barbagallo - Trapeze, Ladders  
Marshall G. Sharretts - Statuary

## Acknowledgements

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM - Tom Brino  
SEATING - Don Monro  
TICKETS - Abe Roughgarden  
CONCESSIONS AND VENDERS - John C. McCoy Jr., Jerry G. Lawton, Gaetano Dittamo, and Boy's Department Members.  
PROGRAM - John C. McCoy Jr.  
USHERS - Joseph Ruddley and the Junior 'Y' Council  
FINANCES - George Pfeifer  
ROUSTABOUTS - Zirpoli Club  
PUBLICITY - Al Chilson  
PROPERTIES - Vic Loppe, Building Superintendent  
LIGHTING - Don Hendricks  
MUSIC - Members of Tom Brino's Swing Accordion Society

## Program

DISPLAY No. 1 - The Grand Entry  
DISPLAY No. 2 - The Manger Children  
DISPLAY No. 3 - Gra-Y Marching  
DISPLAY No. 4 - Ladder Pyramids  
DISPLAY No. 5 - The Human Pinwheel  
DISPLAY No. 6 - A Sailor's Dream - Aerial Ballet (This was an eight place trapeze act.)



# Activity in 1949 & 1950

- DISPLAY No. 7 - The Tumbleweeds - Tumbling
- DISPLAY No. 8 - A Fencing Fantasy
- DISPLAY No. 9 - Swinging on Wood - Parallel Bars
- DISPLAY No. 10 - Hatmania - Hat Juggling
- DISPLAY No. 11 - The Dangerous Slide for Life
- DISPLAY No. 12 - Swinging on Circles - Flying Ring Exercises
- DISPLAY No. 13 - The Royal Troupe - Lena Egg and Company (A trapeze act.)
- DISPLAY No. 14 - Rae and Carl (A hand-balancing act.)
- DISPLAY No. 15 - Tea for Two (A balancing act with a table and chairs featuring Joseph Keller and Richard Kubiskey.)
- DISPLAY No. 16 - Tom Dunn - Trick and Fancy Rope Spinning
- DISPLAY No. 17 - Charles Egg and Company
- DISPLAY No. 18 - The Nessens - Indian Club jugglers
- DISPLAY No. 19 - Living Tableaux of Youth (Evening Performances Only)

While Charles Egg is shown in the picture of the cast of the 1949 Home Show and is listed as a performer in the Home Show Program, he did not appear in the show that year because he was recovering from surgery for stomach cancer. However, even without appearing on the floor, his knowledge and experience helped shape the show and its presentation in many positive ways.

Charlie appeared to be recovering well, and spearheaded the push to prepare a high-wire act for the 1950 Home Show. No wire act had been presented since 1947, and a whole new set of wire walkers had to be trained - that is, of course, except for Charlie for whom wire walking was 'old hat.'

Extra practice sessions were scheduled for the wire-walkers and everything came together for an exciting new act for the 1950 Home Show. Thus the stage was set for that terrible opening night (April 14, 1950) of the 9th Annual Home Show.

## Activity in 1950

### Road Shows (Attendance)

Packanack Lake - 952

**9th Annual Home Show - April 14th & 15th 1950**

Attendance - 1047

**Director - Marshal G. Sharretts**

**Ringmaster - A. M. Chilson**

A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF A TRAGIC EVENT

"What's up with you Jerry? You look as if something is bothering you," someone said to me the night of the dress rehearsal for the 1950 Home Show. "I don't know," I replied, "I just have a bad feeling about this show." There was no reason for this

# Activity in 1950

feeling. The preparation for the show had gone well. I, however, could not shake this feeling - even after the first performance had started.

However, once the Show started, I had little time to think about it. I had appeared in The Grand Entry, Tumbling, Parallel Bar, and Statuary acts, and had taken a hot shower to clean up after statuary and run up to the auxiliary gym, while the high wire act was on, and was sitting on the floor, mentally reviewing my routine for the rings act one last time, when I heard a loud crash from the main gym where the Show was in progress. Charlie Egg had fallen from the high wire. Charlie was alive but severely injured. He had broken his hip in five places.

The Show was temporarily halted so that Charlie could be taken to receive medical treatment.

Now, everyone in the Club knew that many of the things that are done in circus acts were inherently dangerous and that serious accidents could occur. This, however, was different. It had gone from a theoretical possibility to a real occurrence, and everyone, including me, had to face the real risk in their various acts.

The next act up was the flying rings where, using two sets of rings, Arnold Peters and I would do a synchronized routine. We talked it over and decided to go on as planned. (No one would have gotten on our case if we had decided to scrub.) There was time to say a prayer and to again get the routine ready in my mind.

The Show resumed and the wire act was concluded with a clown act on the wire by Johnny Provenzale. As I watched him do his clown routine before a terrified audience (They were afraid that they were going to see a second fall from the wire.) I was amazed by how calm and self-assured he was, after what had just happened.

When the ring act was announced and Arnold Peters and I walked out on the floor, I wasn't afraid, I was flat out terrified! I could feel the walls of my stomach touching together. However, when we were picked up by the spotlights, years of training kicked in. I smiled and saluted the audience as if everything was OK.

The routine went exceptionally well that night, and Arnold and I were in perfect sync until we got to the dismount. I had been having trouble with my dismount because I had a tendency to release the rings a little late. This would lead to over-rotation. Thus, because of the extra stress, I was determined to make my release on the early side of optimum. However, when I got to that point, I couldn't let go. I felt like my hands were glued to the rings.

As I reached the optimum point, and still couldn't release, my fear rose sharply - making it even harder to do what I had to do. Passed optimum I could see in my periphery that Arnold had released and was in the air and I was still frozen with fear.

I finally did let go, and what happened then still continues to amaze me whenever I think about it. Suddenly all the fear was gone, and I could think clearly. I had let go too late to make a clean landing, but I knew what to do. I stretched out to make my body as long as possible to slow my rotation and when I landed I did a back extension roll to my feet and saluted the audience as if I had planned it that way all along.

Arnold had landed a fraction of a second before I did and could have stood and saluted, but when he saw what I was doing he also did a back extension roll. Thus we finished in sync, with only a minor difference on the dismount. The audience was blissfully unaware of the drama that had unfolded before their eyes.

However, the larger drama of what occurred that night was not nearly so benign. Many people in the Club were faced with the same fears that had, overcame them, and were stronger for it. The remainder of that first performance went without incident, as did the two performances the next day, but the impact on the Club was very negative and long lasting.

Charlie did recover from his fall, but died within a year of stomach cancer. Thus, his last show was marred by the tragic event of that night. Also, for most Club members, future shows would be less carefree, where we could, and often did, laugh about all the things that went wrong during a show. Now, in everyone's mind, there was the harsh reality that things could happen that were not a laughing matter.

# Activity in 1950

For this and many other reasons the Club began a slow decline that would not be reversed until Ton Dunkley returned to Paterson.

## Circus Club Performers

George Puglia - President

Jerry Krawitz - Vice President

Pauline Wachter

Alice Weinrich

Sidney Albrecht

Beanie Luciano

Ann Campagna

Ann Olsen

Dolores Joske

Carole Schwartze

John Provenzale

Barbara Boudreau

Angelo Buono

Patty Driesse

William Trag

Barbara Nuss

Florence Perkins

Edmondo Porro

Joyce Schall

Dorothy White

Jerry Calkin

Dorothy Macri

Lena Egg

Shirley Parker

Joseph Keller

Teddy Pruiksma

Carl Stelzen

Eileen Carlo

Pauline Wachter

Muriel Mues

Judy Ann Oakley

Henry Luyke

Marge Saunders

Joseph Hancock

Jay Ambrose

Ann Mclaughlin

Charles Egg

Dolores Fossacreta

Elmer Kassner

Jerry Parent

Arlene Scheetz

Joyce Ackerson

Joseph Temple

Elsie Jobse

Arnold Peters

William Leardi

Joyce Pombo

James Azzarella

Barbara Jean Williams

## Circus Club Instructors

Charles Egg - Tumbling, Balancing, High Wire, Pyramids, Trapeze

Lena Egg - Trapeze, Rings Ladders

George Puglia - Apparatus, Pyramids

John Provenzale - Tumbling

Marshall G. Sharretts - Statuary

## Music - The Surrenders

Joseph Szebileski

Louis Arthur

Eugene Flinta

Clifford Gerenz

Danny Martin

Ronald Zykoski

Mike DeVinko

Walter Malanow

Joseph Cartairo

# Activity in 1950 & 1951

## The Flora Dora Sunshine Troupe

William E. Ziegler  
Fred W. Wendt  
A.P. Casteleine

Walter Griffith  
Robert Spinnler  
Wm. Abraham

Wm. A. Dunkley  
Lester Hulme  
Walter Cartotto

## Program

DISPLAY No. 1 - Grand Entry  
DISPLAY No. 2 - The Rhythatomic Tumblers.  
DISPLAY No. 3 - Parallel Bar and High Bar Exercises  
DISPLAY No. 4 - Poweritis - Strong Men  
DISPLAY No. 5 - Ladder Pyramids  
DISPLAY No. 6 - The Royal Troupe - Trapeze  
DISPLAY No. 7 - Luyke, Leardi and Son  
DISPLAY No. 8 - Living Tableaux of Youth (Evenings Only)  
DISPLAY No. 9 - Dance Group  
DISPLAY No. 10 - Walking on Air - High Wire  
DISPLAY No. 11 - Indian Club Swinging - George Hearn (Saturday Evening Only)  
(This act never occurred because of a last minute cancelation by Mr. Hearn.)  
DISPLAY No. 12 - Flying Ring Exercises  
DISPLAY No. 13 - Carl and Angelo - Handbalancing Duet  
DISPLAY No. 14 - The Flora Dora Sunshine Troupe  
DISPLAY No. 15 - The Nessens - Jugglers Supreme  
DISPLAY No. 16 - The 'Y' Trio - Triple Handbalancing  
DISPLAY No. 17 - Charles Egg and Company  
DISPLAY No. 18 - Grande Finale

## Activity in 1951

10th Annual Home Show - April 13th & April 14th 1951  
Attendance - 875

**Director** - Marshall G. Sharretts

**Ringmaster** - Stanley Stanton



# Activity in 1951

The 1951 Home Show was dedicated to the memory of Charlie Egg. The following message is from the first page of the Official Program.

In troubled times such as each of us is experiencing, it is well worth while to put aside the cares of the day - to take frowns and wrinkles from our faces and replace them with smiles and hardy laughs. Welcome to the Tenth Annual Home Show of the YMCA Circus Club - let down your hair and enjoy the whole show!

The proceeds of these performances will be used to finish the construction of a sleeping cabin at the YMCA Camp at Silver Lake, which will be starting its second year of operation in July.

We wish to record our appreciation to our advertisers and boosters whose names appear in our program for their generous support. To our newspapers which have given generously of their space and support not only for this circus, but for all varied activities throughout the year, we publicly express our appreciation.

We sorely miss our wonderful old trouper and Circus Club pioneer - Charlie Egg, who departed from us November 8, 1950. To his memory this program is respectfully dedicated.

GEORGE PUGLIA,  
President, YMCA Circus Club

## Circus Club Performers

George Puglia - President  
Jerry Krawitz - Vice President  
Alice Weinrich - Secretary

Barbara Boudreau  
Peter Optekar  
Arlene Scheetz  
Tom Dunn  
Joan Van Delinda  
William Lambert  
Arthur Leardi and Son

Arnold Peters  
Florence Perkins  
Dorothy Martin  
Shirley Dorman  
Joseph McLaughlin  
Jerry Calkin

Ann McLaughlin  
Angelo Buono  
Oskar Baumgartner  
James Azzarella  
Joyce Spencer  
Jerry Krawitz

## Magician

Gus Weber

## The Nessens

Sydney Albrecht

Elmer Kassner

Joseph Temple

# Activity in 1951

## Paterson Swiss Turnverein

Fred Hugruw  
Wally Crowe  
Paul Peterson

Michael Sweeny  
Andy Toughy  
Anna Uhlmer

Gay Hadwell  
Julius Crowe

## Jr. Leader Corps

John DeStefano - President  
Gordon Westerhoff - Vice President  
Salvatore Polidoro - Secretary - Treasurer

George Betar  
George Shackoor  
Robert Erdman

Robert Kievit  
Philip Luchese

David Lewis  
Dominick Butchel

## The Dance Studio

Barbara Nuss  
Dorothy Zorn  
Jean Matarrese

Joe Keller  
Joan Salvato  
Richard Iacobelli

Barbara Williams  
Frank Iacobelli  
Joyce Schall

## Music

Members of Tom Brino's Swing Accordion Society

## Circus Club Instructors

John Provenzale - Tumbling, Apparatus  
George Puglia - Apparatus  
Ann McLaughlin - Baton Twirling  
Arlene Scheetz - Tumbling  
Jerry Calkin - Rings  
Marshall Sharretts - Statuary

## Acknowledgements

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM - Tom Brino  
SEATING - Joseph Vanore

# Activity in 1951 & 1952

TICKET DISTRIBUTION AND FINANCES - George Pfiefer

PROGRAM - John C. McCoy, Jr.

CONCESSIONS AND VENDORS - John C. McCoy, Jr., Jerry G. Lawton, Raymond Dempski, and the Boy's Department Members

ROUSTABOUTS - Bob Bredenberg and Jr. Swim Team

PUBLICITY - Al Chilson

PROPS - Victor Loppe, Building Superintendent

LIGHTING - David Landale

USHERS - Joseph Ruddley and the Jr. 'Y' Council

COLOR GUARD - Raymond Pellington Post No. 77, American Legion

## Activity in 1952

### Road Shows (Month, Event, Attendance)

Passaic YMCA - no data, no data, 180

Haledon - October, Rec. Department Halloween Parade, no data

Ridgewood YMCA - no data, xxx Rally, 90

Hackensack YMCA - no data, Parents Night, 185

Paterson YMCA - Show for New Members, 40

### 11th Annual Home Show - April 25th & 26th 1952

Attendance - 580

### Circus Club Performers

George Puglia - President

Peter Optekar

James Azzarella

Angelo Buono

Richard Kubiskey

John Provenzale

Barbara Boudreau

Henry Luyke

Henry Crist

Harold Christiansen

Jerry Calkin

Arthur Leardi and Son

### Magician

Gus Weber

# Activity in 1952

## The Nessens

Sydney Albrecht

Elmer Kassner

Joseph Temple

## Jr. Leader Corps

John DeStefano - President

Philip Luchese - Vice President

Salvatore Polidoro - Secretary - Treasurer

Robert Kievit

George Shackoor

Robert Salmanowitz

## Baton Twirlers - Helen Hess, Instructor

Elsie Schubert

Rosemarie Van Dyke

Barbara Jones

Rose Marie Tramutolo

Judy Bomsin

## The Folk Dance Club

Ray Leidy

Alice Kreski

Roger Zuccone

Diane Collins

Kenneth Tinsley

Betty Maxwell

June Smith

Frank Eyer

## The Dance Studio

Joyce Schall

Pat Driesse

Barbara Nuss

Marsha Ann Sharretts

Barbara Robertson

Judy Ann Oakley

Barbara Williams

Barbara Boudreau

Edwin Ullmer

Brenda Farmer

## Music

A Unit of Tom Brino's Accordion Band

## Circus Club Instructors

John Provenzale - Tumbling, Apparatus, Trampoline

George Puglia - Apparatus

# Activity in 1952

James Azzarella - Apparatus  
Marshall Sharretts - Statuary, Trampoline

## **Acknowledgements**

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM - Tom Brino  
SEATING - Jack Himebaugh  
FINANCES - George Pfiefer  
TICKETS AND TICKET DISTRIBUTION - Abram Roughgarden  
PROGRAM - John C. McCoy, Jr.  
CONCESSIONS AND VENDORS - John C. McCoy, Jerry G. Lawton, and the Boy's Department Members  
ROUSTABOUTS - Bob Bredenberg, Jerry Martino, and Jr. Swim Team  
PROPS - Victor Loppe and Jean Gielen  
LIGHTING - David Landdale  
USHERS - Mr. and Mrs. Allen Thomas and the Jr. 'Y' Council  
PUBLICITY - A. M. Chilson



# Activity in 1953

## Chapter 4

### The Club Under the Leadership of Tom Dunkley

When Tom Dunkley became Associate Physical Director at the Paterson YMCA the Club started on a 'renaissance' period of its history. The following is a summary of this time written by Tom in the fall of 1954.

#### THE "Y" CIRCUS CLUB A BALL OF FIRE

1952: Shows at YMCA's in Passaic, Ridgewood, Hackensack, and Paterson with over 500 spectators total. Represented at Haledon Recreation Department Halloween Parade. Home Show attendance 500 plus. Contributed to World Services. Silver Lake contribution of \$330. Membership approximately 20.

1953: Almost 20 Shows at YMCA's in Plainfield, Montclair, Passaic, Orange, Metuchen, and Paterson. Also at Passaic Turners, Vocational High School, Central High School, Lake Mohawk, Packanack Lake, Totowa First Baptist Church, and Pompton Dutch Reformed Church. Represented on Contest Carnival TV programs and in the Paterson Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade. There were over 4,300 spectators besides the thousands watching the TV show and the Christmas Parade. Home Show attendance was 500 plus. Contributed to World Service and over \$250 to the "Y" Camp. Membership approximately 30.

1954: As of September 1st, more than 35 shows at YMCA's in Hackensack, Montclair, Passaic, and Paterson. Appeared at Paterson and Hackensack YMHA's, Alexander Hamilton Hotel, Totowa Baptist and Tenafly Presbyterian churches, Midvale Recreation Hall, Eastside High School, School No. 5 Paterson, Fair Lawn Lincoln School, Lazarus Hall (Paterson), Union Turnverein, Passaic Turners, Wyckoff Lincoln School, Clifton High School, outdoors at Westwood and Hackettstown. Represented two times on Ted Mack TV Show and four times on Contest Carnival. Over 7,000 spectators plus thousands of TV fans. Contributed to World Service, and approximately \$600 to the "Y" Camp. Membership 55 plus honorary status including "Mr. New Jersey" Carl Stelzen, "President of National Circus Fans Club" Joe Minchin, "Dance Teacher" Eleanor Egg, "Dance Teacher" Dottie Locker, "Professional Juggler and Comedian" Laddie Lamot and well known local figures such as M.C. Pat Ferro and former Circus Clown "Tramp" McNally.

Under the leadership of President George Puglia and Vice President Jerry Krawitz, the club has made a tremendous impression on thousands of persons. Coaching each other has been the club's policy and with tips from "Rocky" Buono, Fred Pullen and others, the outfit was bound to advance. Coaching from the fairer sex was evidenced by Kitty Cain, Norma Aehlich, and Barbara Boudreau among others.

The age range has been from preschoolers to great grand-dads. Laddie Lamont runs a close second to Henry Crist in length of active years. (That's about two thirds of a century.)

Following World War II, a different but ambitious "Y" Circus Club pledged \$5,000 to the newly forming YMCA Silver Lake Camp. The camp has completed four years of service and the Circus Club's contributions have surpassed the \$4,000 mark. A cabin now displays a plaque reading to the effect that the Paterson YMCA Circus Club has presented the cabin.

# Activity in 1953

Of course, there were many social good times, most outstanding being Jerry Calkin's farewell as he left for the Army, and the biggest of all, the Christmas party.

The Club is proud of its many members now in colleges such as Barbara Jacobs, majoring in Physical education at Springfield college. The Club is also proud of its many compliments on performances. But most of all, the Club is proud of itself, the YMCA Circus Club.

## Activity in 1953

### Road Shows (Month, Event, Attendance)

Passaic Turners - no data, Home Show, 420  
Plainfield YMCA - no data, Open House, 145  
Montclair YMCA - no data, B. B. Entertainment, 140  
Central High School - N.Y.U. Sports Show, 480  
Passaic YMCA - no data, Strength Show, 185  
Orange YMCA - no data, Circus, 540  
Metuchen YMCA - no data, Parents Gym Show, 190  
Lake Mohawk - no data, Aquatic Show, 35  
Paterson YMCA - no data, New Members, 40  
Philadelphia - TV (parallel bar comedy by Ted Piekarski & Jerry Calkin)  
Passaic Turners - October, Competition, 160  
Packanack Lake - September, Girl Scouts, 480  
Totowa 1st Baptist Church - November, Family Day, 90  
Pompton Dutch Reformed Church - November, Boy Scouts, 200  
Paterson YMCA - no data, New Members, 35  
Paterson Technical High School - no data, Assembly Entertainment, 600  
Paterson City - November, Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade  
Paterson YMCA - December, Boys & Y.P.D. Christmas Program, 85

**12th Annual Home Show - April 24th & 25th 1953**

Attendance - 500+

**Director - Tom Dunkley**

### Circus Club Performers

George Puglia	Dolores Vroom	Walter Miller
Gail Ade	James Williams	Arthur Leardi
Norma Aehlich	Morton Young	"Buck" Newstrom
Carol Barnes	James Azarrello	Ted Piekarski
Bobbie Bezine	Frank Bezine	John Provenzale

# Activity in 1953

Barbara Boudreau  
Kittie Cain  
Eileen Ciarlo  
Rosalie Fiorilla  
Barbara Jacobs  
Helen Kearney  
Judy Kearney  
Mina Smith

Angelo Buono  
Jerry Calkin  
Peter D'Croce  
Joe Dransfield  
Tom Dunn  
Arthur Jachts  
Richard Kubiskey  
Andy Tuohy

Carl Stelzen  
Paul Tyler  
Edward Betar  
James Convery  
Joseph Picarelli  
Dave Wardle  
William Wardle

## **Tumblegang**

Ann Boker  
James Bokor  
Brenda Farmer

Joyce Schall  
Edward Ullmer  
Barbara Williams

Barbara Nuss  
Patricia Fertel  
Rita Warr

## **Junior Leaders Corps - Statuary**

Robert Keivit - Acting President

David Lewis  
George Betar

George Shackoor  
Clayton McGary

John Grubb  
Dennis Petraitis

## **Midget Leader Corps - Exercise Drill**

Peter D'Croce - President  
Walter Miller - Vice President

Arthur Jachts  
Louis D'Croce

Bernard Geerhart  
William Schultz

Thomas Condon  
Ronald Hinton

## **Boy Scout Troop # 77 - Combat Drill**

Walter Van Zuidan  
John Van Zuidan  
Russell Liotard  
Edward Liotard

John Toebes  
Charles Miller  
Arthur Lowe  
Paul Mole

Arthur McCallen  
Harold Lozell  
Michael Juliano

# Activity in 1953 & 1954

## Circus Club Instructors

George Puglia - Apparatus and Miscellaneous  
Jerry Krawitz - Aerial Acts  
Jerry Calkin - Flying Rings and Boys Drills  
Tom Dunn - Pyramid Formations  
Angelo Buono - Balancing Acts  
Carl Stelzen - Strength Acts  
Eleanor Egg Kratigger - Tumbling  
Tom Dunkley - Trampoline, Tableaux, and Comedy

## Acknowledgements

LOBBY AND DISPLAYS - A. M. Chilson  
DECORATIONS - Frank Bezine and Committee  
USHERING ARRANGEMENTS - James L. Peck  
CLERICAL DETAILS - "Y" secretaries, Jean and Joan  
ADS AND CONCESSIONS - John C. McCoy, Jr.  
ACCOUNTING RECORDS - George Pfeifer  
TICKET DISTRIBUTION - Abram Roughgarden  
FLOOR MANAGEMENT - Marshall Sharrets  
CLOWN FACE MAKE-UP - Vincent Libbon  
LIGHTING MANAGEMENT - William Wardle  
COLOR GUARD BEARERS - Lt. Col. Robert Shaver  
SEATING ARRANGEMENTS - Victor Loppe and Crew  
PUBLIC RELATIONS - "Y" Desk Attendants  
CONCESSION VENDORS - Boy's Department  
USHERS AND USHERETTES - Young People's Department  
EQUIPMENT SET-UP - "Y" Swim Team  
MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS - Tom Brino

## Activity in 1954

### Road Shows (Month, Event, Attendance)

Alexander Hamilton Hotel (Paterson) - January, Rotary Club Entertainment, 100+  
Philadelphia - January, (TV parallel bar comedy)  
Paterson YMCA - January, National YMCA week, 80+  
Montclair YMCA - January, National YMCA week, 198  
Paterson YMCA - January, Saturday Niter Floor Show, 160

# Activity in 1954

Totowa 1st Baptist Church - February 10th, Men's Club, 30  
Philadelphia - February 14th, (TV wire act)  
Paterson YMCA - February 21st, Club Blue and Gold, 190  
Paterson YMCA - February 22nd, Evening News newsboys, 230  
Midvale Recreation Hall - February 24th, Scouts Banquet, 200  
Eastside High School - February 25th, St. Paul's Building Fund Variety Show, 700+  
Hackensack YMHA - February 28th, Family Fun Fest, 250  
Fairlawn Lincoln School - March 8th, P.T.A. Bazaar, 70  
Tenafly Presbyterian Church - March 13th, xxx, 300  
Paterson YMCA - March 20th, Saturday Niter Dance, 200  
Lazaras Hall (Paterson) - April, Swiss Turners Exhibition, 200+  
Union Trunhall - April, Union Turners Exhibition, 200+  
Wycoff Lincoln School - April, 8th, Lions Club Capers Variety Show, 275  
Wycoff Lincoln School - April, 9th, Lions Club Capers Variety Show, 350  
Wycoff Lincoln School - April, 10th, Lions Club Capers Variety Show, 800  
Paterson YMCA - April 14th, New Members Dinner, 50  
Paterson YMCA - April 23rd, Camp Reunion - Silver Lake, 100+  
Passaic Turners - April 24th, Turners Exhibition, 200+  
Westwood - April 25th, xxx Hospital, 400  
Passaic YWCA - May, YWCA Annual Fiesta, 200  
Paterson YMCA - May 1st, Area Leader's Rally, 75  
Clifton High School - May 14th, Clifton Lions Club, 100 +  
Public School #5 - May 15th, United Vets, 400  
N.Y.C. May 22nd, Ted Mack TV  
N.Y.C. June 26th, Ted Mack TV  
Philadelphia - June 18th, (TV devilette balancing)  
Hackettstown - June 25th, Tom Dunn's Lake Sussex, 230  
Philadelphia - June 2nd, (TV trampoline - Barbara Nuss)

**13th Annual Home Show - March 26th & 27th 1954**  
Attendance 1000+

**Director - Tom Dunkley**

**Ringmaster - Pat Ferro**

## **From the Program:**

With the threat of war more distant than at this time last year, the 1954 Circus Club cheerfully invites you to enjoy the results of a family type YMCA Club, which has achieved the perfection of professional activity in this entertainment field.

The only YMCA group of its kind in the country, our club is even more proud of the fact that no performer is paid



# Activity in 1954

to represent the Paterson YMCA. The first two months of this year, members performed before 3000 persons besides appearing on two T.V. shows. Proceeds of these performances are used for improvement of the Paterson YMCA Camp at Silver Lake, which opens its fifth season this July.

Our appreciation is extended to the many advertisers, boosters and friends for their generous support. Special thanks to the Y staff for their cooperation.

For your entertainment, we humbly present a Christian Troupe of Circus Performers.

Relax and enjoy with us the thrill and satisfaction of displaying the many skills possible through human physical and mental effort.

GEORGE PUGLIA  
President,  
YMCA Circus Club

H.H. SCHOONMAKER, President YMCA  
W.A. LINDELL, General Executive

## Circus Club Instructors

George Pulia (President) - Apparatus  
Jerry Krawitz (Vice President) - High Wire and Trapeze  
Angelo Buono - Balancing  
Fred Pullan - Tight Wire  
Kitty Cain - Pyramid and Trapeze  
Tom Dunkley - Trampoline and Misc.  
Elwood Casperson - Junior Gymnastics

## Circus Club performers

James Azzarello	Fred Pullan	Betty Hockstra
Mike Babyak	George Puglia	Diane Lundberg
Angelo Buono	John Sinko	Elaine Miller
George Brady	Paul Tyler	Anita Moore
Rex Broyles	Norma Aehlich	Barbara Nuss
Henry Crist	Margret Ball	Mrs. F. Pullan
Tom Dunn	Barbara Boudreau	Jean Smith
Peter DiCroce	Kittie Cain	Pat Steere
John Grubb	Margarita Ciarfello	Gail Steiner
Jerry Krawitz	Meryl-Ann Daily	Diane Sutcliffe
Dave Lewis	Jean Davidson	Gail Sutcliffe
Walter Miller	Pam Emerick	Kate Wilkinson

# Activity in 1954

Dennis Petraitis  
Ted Piekarski

Ellen Hess  
Pat Hickman

Jean Woodward

## Junior Performers

Alana Kearney  
Tom Pullan  
Doris Pullan  
Barby Krawitz  
Ruth Dunkley  
Bob Burchell

Peggy Minick  
Bob Merriman  
Vie Moncato  
Joe Moncato  
Anthony Plozzuti  
James Heater

Joe Picarelli  
Lou DiCroce  
George Williams  
Maurice Viollete  
Marsha Sharretts  
Dave Montross

## Former and Honorary Active Members, 1954

“Laddie Lamont”  
Carl Stelzen  
Tom Brino  
Anthony Frisco  
Joseph Minchin

Dick Kubisky  
Ray Beaudet  
Julius Rosenthal  
Pat Farra  
Vince Libbon

Jay Ambrose  
Eleanor “Egg” Krattiger  
James Cialone  
Don Walters  
Andy Shadegg

## Clown Numbers

Mike Babyak  
George Brady

Paul Tyler  
Jerry Krawitz

Tom Dunkley  
Ted Piekarski

# Activity in 1955

## Chapter 5

### Decline and Rebirth

#### Activity in 1955

##### Road Shows

Perth Amboy YMCA - January  
Montclair YMCA - January  
Paterson School #7 - February 18th & 19th  
Packanack Lake - October 1st

**14th Annual Home Show - April 16th**

**Ringmaster - George Jatinen**

**Pianist - Juluis Rosenthal**

##### Program

1. STAR SPANGLED BANNER - Good Evening
2. THE LADDERETTES - Elevation Elite
3. THE DEVILETTES - Satan in the Balance
4. FRED LINSLEY - Tightwire Thrills
5. INTERLUDE - Doug's Doin's and Paterson's Oldest Acrobat
6. THE SUSPENDED 8 - Eight Place Trapeze
7. TUMBLE JUMBLE - The Junilee Trio and The Pepperpots
8. MR. NEW JERSEY - The Acme of Human Dynamics
9. TRAMPOLINE TRAMPLE - Bounding Net Bounces
10. INTERMISSION - Ten Minutes at the Concessions
11. THE ALLONS - Balance Beautiful
12. GYMNASTIC GYRATIONS - Parallel Paraphernalia
13. GYMNASTIC GYRATIONS - Ring Rhythmical

# Activity in 1955

14. TRAMPOLINE TRANCE - Supreme Suspension
15. GYMNASTIC GYRATIONS - High Horizontal Hovering
16. GYMNASTIC GYRATIONS - Vaulting Vivacity
17. SILVER SILENCE - Men and Women Magnificent
18. GOD BLESS AMERICA - Good Night

## Guest Performers

Rudy Alosi, 8	Gay Carver, 2, 11	Angelo Colderone, 2, 9
Richard Clair, C	Thomas C. Dunkley, 11, 4	Fred Linsley, 4, 11
Cynithia Daly, 11	Pat Hicman, 3	Anita Moore, 3
Gail Sutcliffe, 3		

## Hudson County Gym Team and Passaic Turners

Hugo Poegelt - Instructor		
Lou Domin	William Ruth	Arendine Ostendorp
Don Evans	Doug Lawrence, 5, 17	Gloria Ostendorp
Al Exton	Mary Sarak	Andy Pasinski
Greg Giordano	George Massar	

## Circus Club Performers

Norma Aehlich 2, 6, 17	Joe Fillinger, 17	Ted Piekarski, 2, 9
Angelo Buono 11	Helen Kearney, 2,6	Joan Robinson, 7
Mike Colombo, 7, 9	Alana Kearney, 1	Lee Robinson, 2, 6, 7
Millie Contrini, 2, 6	Joan Lechel, 7	Andy Schadegg, 17
Henry Crist, 5	David Lewis, C	John Sinko, C
Ron Lucas, 17	Jean Smith, 2, 6	Meryl Ann Daly, 2, 6, 11, 17
Pam Edwards, 2, 6	Lew Nemeth, C	Harold Westerhoff, C
Bill Fisher, C	Barbara Nuss, 14	Patricia Wikeria, 1
Gene Ford, Jr., 1	John Ogle, 17	Barbara Yennie, 2, 6, 17

NOTE - Numerals Indicate Act and C Indicates Clowns

## Circus Club Officers

Angelo Buono - President  
Meryl Ann Daly - Vice President  
Norma Aehlich - Treasurer

# Activity in 1956

## Activity in 1956

### THE 1956 HOME SHOW

The 1956 home show is a show that should have never happened. In fact, it would not have, except for the actions of a dedicated member of the Paterson YMCA Circus Club (Angelo Buono) and a Janitor (William Stanley) at the Paterson YMCA. Oh yes, I was also caught up in this strange and unlikely web of events in the spring of 1956.

I had a 'bit' part in the first home show after World War II (1947) and appeared in every home show after that up to and including the 1953 show. Then my rich uncle (Uncle Sam) sent me on a two year, expense paid, guided tour of the world - it was well guided. Upon returning from my two year odyssey, I found that there had been trouble at the Paterson YMCA - big trouble. I spent several months talking to as many people as I could trying to find out just what had happened.

I never did ascertain all the details but I did determine that, at least in my opinion, the administration of the Paterson YMCA had acted badly. There was still a fragment of the Club at the Paterson YMCA - with other fragments elsewhere. Being that I only had one year before I would be going away to college and that I had no desire to spend that year confronting the 'powers that be', I started working out at the Montclair YMCA. As far as I was concerned I had walked away from the whole mess and was not about to look back.

Fortunately, Angelo Buono was much more loyal to the Club than I. He was not only working out at the Montclair YMCA but also still working with the Club at Paterson. One night he pulled me aside and asked me to come back to Paterson again. I told him, in detail, my complaints over the way the Paterson YMCA had handled the events that took place while I was away, and that I had put the whole affair behind me and was looking forward to going off to college. Thus, once again I had washed my hands of the whole affair and walked away. However, this was not to be the final resolution.

On the very next Sunday as I was leaving church, Mr. Stanley, an Elder of my church, called me over. He said to me, "I defended you last week." I replied, "Oh?" Then he said, "The remarks you made in Montclair were repeated at the Paterson YMCA and there were some who asked what right you had to make those remarks. I told them," he continued, "who you were and what right you had to make those comments." Then he said, "Here is what I want you to do. Go to the Paterson YMCA and talk to Mr. Ray Goode." Well, that was the last thing in the world that I wanted to do, but Mr. Stanley was an old friend of my family and I really had no choice.

I put it off as long as I could and on the next Saturday afternoon I went to Ray Goode's office and introduced myself. Ray said, "Come in and sit down and tell me what you think." Now there was an invitation to speak frankly! I did just that. Then he said, "Now let me tell you what I think." And so, we talked back and forth for what seemed to me at the time just a few minutes, but later when I left his office I realized that we had talked for hours.

The whole conversation came to an abrupt end when Ray said, "You know, of course, this whole discussion is academic because this year for the first time in its history, except for the World War II years, the Circus Club will not be able to present its Annual Home Show in April. Let's face it - the Club is dead." I immediately replied, "It is not! We can start working right now and present the Annual Home Show on the last weekend in April." "We!?" exclaimed Ray. Being young, brash, and foolish I said, "I can do it!" Then Ray said, "Jerry if you will return and work with the Club, I will help you any way that I can." On my way home, all I could think of was: "Good grief! What have I gotten myself into now."

For months after that day, every Saturday afternoon I walked into Ray's office and said, "Ray, in the last week the Paterson YMCA has done this, this and that, and I don't like it at all." Then Ray would say, "In the last week the Circus Club people



# Activity in 1956

have done that, that, and this, and I don't like it either." Then we would get down to serious discussion and settle everything - for a week. We got to be great friends and the Circus Club grew and prospered.

The annual home show was presented on the last weekend in April and it was a good show. I, however, have bittersweet memories of that show. On one hand, it was an achievement that the show happened at all and the Club, once thought to be dead, had been revived. On the other hand, I knew that it could have been much better, were it not for the inexperience of that young, brash, and foolish Director.

Thus in September, thinking that it had been a very strange year with many unexpected events and not knowing if I would ever be in another home show, I left for college. Of course I did not know, could not know, that just five years later I would be caught up in an even much more strange web of unlikely events that would surround the 1961 and 1962 home shows - but that's another story.

## Road Shows (Month, Event, Attendance)

Westside YMCA (NYC) - May 4th 1956, No Data, 200+

Eastside Park (Paterson) - May 20th 1956, Recreation Commission Show, 100+

Church of the Messiah (Paterson) - June 13th 1956, Strawberry Festival, No Data

## 15th Annual Home Show - April 27th 1956

**Physical Director** - Ray Goode

**Assistant Physical Director** - Joe Vanore

**Director** - Jerry Calkin

**Ringmaster** - Fred MacGuire

## Circus Club Performers

Angelo Buono - President

Meryl Ann Daly - Secretary

Barbara Yennie

Mike Colombo

Pam Edwards

Nancy Pearson

Barbara Nuss

John Ogle

Gay Cowen

Art Egli

Pat Contrini

Jerry Calkin

Ted Piekarski

Joe Fillinger

Marge Harding

Jean Smith

Joan Kelly

Ron Lucas

Helen Kearney

Jo An Violo

Alana Kearney

Peter DiCroce

Andy Schadegg

Millie Contrini

Lee Robinson

Roger Maurie

Joe Keller

Bob Gras

Pat Wickeria

Carl Stelzen

# Activity in 1956

## Passaic Turners - Higo Peogelt, Director

William Guth	Tony Oswald	Bruno Waldin
Paul Richert	Erich Pohle	Rudolf Bittner
Hans Ege	Philip Finkle	Gregory Giordano
Andrew Pasinski		

## Bates Barbell Club - Frank Bates. Director

Carl Stelzen	Mike Baeli	Len Bosland
Tony Ciaramella	Ralph Parrilli	

## Boy Scout Troop 77 - Bob Calkin & Al Riscalla, Directors

Austin Campbell	Jerry Ewen	Mike Juliano
Roger Campbell	John Guliano	Jim Brown
Russell Currie	Bob Lakatos	Walter Sandy
Leo Kaminski	John Kaminski	Charles Evens

## YMCA Boys

Ted May	Edmund Wesnefskie	Michael Strenfeld
Leonard Allnan	Brian Bauer	David Obrenski
Richard Verba	Walter Liotard	Fred Summer
Ed Cotton	Thomas Klinger	David Strandberg
William Falker	John Geybler	Jim Labagnara

## Program

1. GRAND ENTRY - Entire Cast
2. YMCA BOYS - MFT Tests, Tumbling
3. TUMBLING - Ted, Mike, Gay, Joe, Jerry, Pete, Barbara, & Andy
4. BALANCE BEAM -Norma Aehlich & Joan Kelly
5. LIMBER - Pam & Marge
6. PARALLEL NONSENSE - Jerry Calkin & Gay Cowen
7. LADDERS - Meryl, Helen, Lee, Joan, Pam, Marge, Millie, & Nancy
8. CHAMPION LIFTING - Bates Barbell Club
9. BALANCE - Barbara Yennie & Joe Fillinger

# Activity in 1956 & 1957

10. INDIAN DANCE - Troop 77 BSA, Third Presbyterian Church
11. CHAIRS - Meryl Ann Daly & Joe Keller
- INTERMISSION
12. THE TIGHT WIRE - Bob, Ted, & Meryl Ann
13. REVOLVING LADDER - Joe & Art
14. PARALLEL AND HIGH BARS - Passaic Turners
15. BALANCE - Meryl Ann Daly & Angelo Buono
16. FLYING RINGS - Passaic Turners
17. 8 PLACE TRAPEZE - Nancy, Lee, Helen, Pam, Meryl, & Marge
18. TRAMPOLINE - Ted, Pete, Bob, Andy, Barbara, Nancy, & Pattie
19. SILVER STATUES - Andy, John, Meryl, Pam, Barb, & Joe

## Acknowledgements

PROGRAMS - Joyce De Vre  
FINANCES - Walt Duncanson  
SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP - Len Sitter and Crew  
MUSIC - John Grubb and Dave Lewis  
CONCESSIONS - Henry Crist & Whitey Huber, Pat Wikeria & Alama Kearny  
LIGHTING - Donald Cairns and Ken King

## Activity in 1957

### Road Shows (Date, Event, Attendance)

Eastside Park - May 19th 1957, Recreation Commission Show, 100+  
North Jersey Country Club - Summer 1957, Evening Entertainment, 50+

**16th Annual Home Show - April 16th 1957**

**Physical Director - Ray Goode**  
**Ringmaster - Frank Mac Guire**

### From the Program

The 1957 Circus Club Home Show is dedicated to the memory of Henry Crist who for many years contributed his time and talent to the Circus Club and at the time of his death March 24, 1957 was the oldest active member of the Club. Mr. Crist was in his 70th year.

# Activity in 1957

## Circus Club Performers

Angelo Buono - President  
Meryl Ann Daly - Vice President  
Joe Fillinger - Treasurer

Trudy Albert	Millie Contrini	Pat Contrini
Joan Dreher	Ursula Forker	Joan Kelley
Stephanie Krulan	Jon Guenther	Beverly Lorimer
Barbara Nuss	Pattie Mac Ewen	Carol Padelford
Nancy Pearson	Eileen Tanski	Judith Weber
Barbara Yennie	Barbara Van Orden	Barbara Van Den Bosch
Linda Peterbaugh	Alana Kearney	Mary Rowan
Helen Kearney	Joyce Quackenbush	Blanche Kardasc
Jane McCormack	Eileen Parker	Judy La Roe
Dona Mason	Robert Gras	Dot De Groot
Dianne Jones	David Lewis	Bill Collins
William Collins, Sr.	Robert Paxton	Ted Piekarski
Barry Pearson	Ken Black	William Rager
Gerald Smothergill	Edward Rager	Andy Schadegg
Richard Vee	Toni Lolk	Dennis McHugh
Henry Weber	Darlene Oxforth	Edward Lill
Alice Barber		

## Troop 77 B.S.A. Third Presbyterian Church - Bob Calkin & Al Riscalla, Directors

Mike Juliano	Paul Armstrong	Jerry Ewen
Guy Simmons	Jim Gourley	Bill Benitz
Frank Benitz	John Guiliano	Cary Edwards
Walt Sandy	Bob Wiech	John Dransfeild
Bill Dransfeild	Peter Rauschenbach	Henri Rauschenbach
Carl Rauschenbach		

## Program

1. GRAND ENTRY - Cast
2. BATONS - Mckenna School of Dance
3. SOPHISTI-KATS - Joan Kelley, Stephanie Krulan
4. TUMBLERS - Eleanor Egg Dance School
5. ACRO-MANIACS - Bill Collins Sr. & Eileen Tanski
6. INDIAN LORE - Troop 77 BSA
7. CLOWN DANCE - McKenna School of Dance

# Activity in 1957 & 1958

8. THE ALLONS - Angelo Buono & Meryl Ann Daly
9. THE WEISS TWINS
10. TRAMPOLINE - Andy Pasinski, Meryl Ann, Pattie, Dave Lewis
- INTERMISSION -
11. TRAPEZE 8 - Meryl, Stephanie, Eileen, Joan, Toni Lolk, Judy Weber, Flo, Joan Dreher
12. ROPE MAGIC - The Tenners
13. PONY DANCE - Meryl, Joan, Toni, Eileen, Flo Deeth
14. RHYTHMIC BALANCE - Barbara Yennie & Joe Fillinger
15. BALANCE BEAM - Joan Kelley & Norma Aehlich
16. INDIAN LORE - Troop 77 BSA
17. LADDER LACE - Meryl, Toni, Eileen, Flo, Joan, Judy, Stephanie, Pattie
18. TURNERS - Joan, Norma, Flo
19. TUMBLING WONDERS - Andy Pasinsky and Company
20. SILVER STATUES - Andy Schadegg, Norma, Flo, Joe, Barb, Bill, Joan, Eileen, Bill Jr.

## Acknowledgements

COSTUMES - Meryl Ann Daly  
SOUND - Bill Fisher, Bob Calkin, Dave Lewis  
TICKETS - Mr. and Mrs. Allen Thomas

## Activity in 1958

### Road Shows

At least 20 shows, but there is no data on any individual show

### 17th Annual Home Show - April 26th 1958

**Physical Director** - Ray Goode

**Ringmaster** - Ronnie Bruni

### Circus Club Performers

Angelo Buono - President

Meryl Ann Daly - Vice President

Joe Fillinger - Treasurer

Norma Aehlich

Pat Contrini

Darlene Delibero

Camille De Marco

Rebecca Bruce

Bill Collins

Fred Delibero

Jean De Marco

Bill Collins, Jr.

Flo Deeth

Gary Bennett

Diane Huizinga



# Activity in 1958

Bill Fisher	Bob Gras	Frank Iacobelli
Joan Kelley	Stephanie Krulan	Toni Lolk
Dave Lewis	Roy Loveless	James Mc Donald
Dorothy Loveless	William Miersch	Andy Schadegg
Barbara Nuss	Darlene Oxford	Barbara Yennie
Gerald Smothergill	Eileen Tanski	

## **Dance Art School - Eleanor Egg, Director**

Joyce Schall	Claire Douchek	Patty Fertel
Marilyn Becker	Ann Bokor	James Bokor
Andy Simone		

## **Hudson County Turners - Hugo Poegelt, Instructor**

Louise Poegelt	Karen Loosch	Gloria Ostendorf
Flo Deeth	Gabe Graziosi	Eddie Ulrich
Bill Monahan	Greg Giordano	

## **Union City Swiss Turners**

Greg Weiss	Brunny Weiss	Bob Interman
Bill Kelly	Vince D'Auterio	

## **Hackensack Skating Club**

Harry Post	Sherrie Trede	Bruce Bogel
Carol Thierselder	Gail Chromiak	Maryanne Farina
Dotty Di Crosta		

## **Acknowledgements**

AUDIO - Stanley Arachy, Jim Schonberg, and YMCA Aquacons  
LIGHTS - Passaic Turners  
REFRESHMENTS - YMCA Jr. Leaders Club and Eastside Hi-Y Club  
TICKETS - Mr. and Mrs. Allen Thomas  
STAGE - Donald Cairns  
MIMEOGRAPH - Joyce Shul, YMCA

# Activity in 1958 & 1959

## Program

1. GRAND ENTRY - Cast
  - 1A BATON BAFFLE - Diane Huizinga
2. TUMBLING TUMULT - Barbara Nuss, Bob Gras, Bill Collins Jr., Frank Iacobelli
3. ACROMANIACS - Bill Collins and Barbara Yennie
4. BUTTONS AND BEAU - Meryl Daly, Darlene Delibero, Dave Lewis, Dot Loveless, Joan Kelley, Diane Huizinga, Stephanie Krulan, Toni Lolk
5. THE CUT-UPS - Flo Deeth and Eileen Tanski
6. BEAM BALANCE - Joan Kelley, Brunny Weiss, Karen Loosch
7. LOVELY HULA HANDS - Connie Tomkavich
8. SOPHISTI-KATS - Joan Kelley, Stephanie Krulan
9. WHEW! WHEELS - Hackensack Skating Club
  - A. SOLO - Harry Post
  - B. DUET - Sherrie Trede and Bruce Bugel
  - C. QUARTET - Gail Chromiak, Carol Thierselder, Mary Anne Farina, and Dotty Di Crosta

## INTERMISSION

10. 8 PLACE TRAPEZE - Cast as in #4
11. TRAMPOLETTE - Union City Swiss Turners
12. ROPE MAGIC & WHIP LASH - The Kays, Tony & Terry
13. THE ALLONS - Meryl Ann Daly and Angelo Buono
14. ACROBATIC ANTICS - Joyce Schall
15. DANCE - Ronnie Bruni
16. SINGLE TRAPEZE - Joe Fillinger, Meryl Ann Daly, Joan Kelley, Stephanie Krulan
17. TUMBLING TRAVESTY - Dance Art School
18. PARALLEL & HORIZONTAL - Hudson County Turners
19. PARALLEL PHONY - Frank Iacobelli and Bob Gras
20. TRAMPOLINE TURNS - Barbara Nuss, Ted Piekarski, Bob Gras, Frank Iacobelli, Bill Collins Jr.
21. SILVER SILENCE - Joe Fillinger and Circus Club Cast

## Activity in 1959

### Road Shows (Date, Event, Attendance)

St. Ann's Church - May 14th, 15th, & 16th 1959  
Valley View Sanatorium - January 5th 1959

# Activity in 1959

## 18th Annual Home Show - April 25th 1959

**Physical Director** - William Lied

**Assistant Physical Director** - Charles K. Tucker

**Ringmaster** - Don Cairns

## Circus Club Performers

Angelo Buono - President

Meryl Ann Buono - Vice President

Joe Fillinger - Treasurer

Bill Fisher

Bob Gras

John Grubb

Helmet Habermas

Walter Habermas

Frank Iacobelli

Jo Ann Iacobelli

Joan Kelley

Stephanie Krulan

Dave Lewis

Bill Leardi

Dorothy Loveless

Roy Loveless

Bill Merch

Barbara Nuss

Darlene Oxford

Kenneth Rudd

Ginny Scantoro

Benny Scantoro

Jerry Calkin

Kenneth Carey

Barbara Collins

Bill Collins

Bill Collins Jr.

Joyce Carven

Darlene Delibero

Fred Delibero

Joan Dooley

Janis Dooley

Eileen Tanski

## Guest Groups

**Dance Art School** - Eleanor Egg Krattinger, Director

**Hudson County Turners** - Hugo Poegelt, Instructor

**Hackensack Skating Club** - Phil Pinto, President

**Mckenna School of Dance** - Annette Mckenna, Director

## Special Guests

Andrew Pasinski & Co., Former Olympic Tumbling Champ

Tom Dunn, Courtesy of Cowboy City, Route 22, Central N.J.

## Acknowledgements

TICKETS - Joe Fillinger

COSTUMES - Meryl Ann Buono

# Activity in 1959

MUSIC - John Grubb

CHOREOGRAPHY - Meryl Ann Buono

LIGHTS - Helmet Habermas

CLOWNS - Bill Fisher & Bill Collins Jr.

## Program

1. GRAND ENTRY - Entire Company
2. JUNIOR TRAMPOLEERS - Fred Delibero, Ken Rudd, Walt Habermas, Bill Collins Jr., Ken Carey, Wesley Hall
3. SPECIALTY #1 - The Bokor Twins
4. POETRY IN MOTION - Joe Fillinger and Joyce Craven
5. STAIRWAY FOR A STAR - Ginny Scantoro
6. SPECIALTY #2 - Frank Dobek
7. ORIENTAL DREAM - Shah: Bones Lewis, Harem: Darlene Delibero, Jo Anne Iacobelli, Dorothy Loveless, Joan Kelley, Janice and Joan Dooley, Joyce Craven, Stephanie Krulan
8. TUMBLING SUPREME - Joyce Schall
9. YOUNGER THAN SPRINGTIME - Ginny and Benny Scantoro
10. TUMBLING TERRORS - Jerry Calkin, Joe Fillinger, Bill Thomson, Frank Iacobelli, Bob Gras, Ted Piekarski, Bones Lewis, Larry Dunlap
11. WHEELS AND RHYTHM - Harry Post, and Margaret Leardi

## INTERMISSION

12. STRAIGHT AND NARROW - Walt Habermas, Ray Patterson, Ted Piekarski
13. ENCHANTING AERIAL EXTRAVAGANZA - Same Cast as No. 7
14. THE ACROMANIACS - Barbara & and Bill Collins
15. SPIN AND SPORT - Joan Dooley, Joyce Craven, Walt Habermas
16. HAPPY WANDERES - Bob Gras, Mike Babyak, Frank Iacobelli
17. WESTERN SURPRISE - Ricky & Sheri Wayne
18. LOVELY HULA HANDS - Connie Tomkavitch
19. THE ALLONS - Art Leardi and Angelo Buono
20. GYMNASTIC ARTISTRY - Hugo Poegelt (Instructor), Bill Monahan, Nick Nemeth, Danny Evans, Werner Helbig, Gabe Groziose, Ed Ullrich, Proder Rechleffen
21. SUSPENDED ANIMATION - Jo Anne Iacobelli, Joan Dooley, Darlene Delibero, Joyce Craven, Joe Fillinger
22. SENIOR TRAMPOLEERS - Bob Gras, Bones Lewis, Ted Piekarski, Ginny Scantoro, Jerry Calkin, Frank Iacobelli.
23. SILVER SILENCE - Joe Fillinger and Circus Club Cast

# Activity in 1960

## Activity in 1960

### 19th Annual Home Show - April 30th 1960

#### From the Program

Friends, On behalf of the newly rejuvenated Circus Club and the Physical Department of the Paterson YMCA may we extend a warm welcome. It is encouraging to have the cooperation of family and friends in our attempts to show the progress made by these performers, who have put so much of themselves into endless hours of practice to bring you this production. Our sincere thanks to our patrons, our boosters and our audience.

Robert Gras - President, Circus Club (See picture to the right)  
Wm. J. Lied, Jr. - Director of Physical Education, Paterson YMCA  
Norman Brosniak - Asst. Dir. of Physical Education, Paterson YMCA



**Ringmaster** - Wm. J. Lied, Jr.

#### Acknowledgements

PROGRAM - Diane Huizinga, Jean Roessler, Evelyn Thomas

AUDIO - John Grubb

LIGHTS - Paterson YMCA Jr. Leaders

TICKETS - Diane Huizinga & Mrs. Allen Thomas

REFRESHMENTS - John McNair, Ellen Roessler, and Charles Tucker

MAINTENANCE - Dick Perry and his Staff members

#### Circus Club Performers

Mike Babyak

Pat Byrne

Judy Mazur

Ken Cary

Barbara Collins

Bill Collins, Sr.

Joyce Craven

Darlene Delibero

Richie Diorio

Joe Fillinger

Bill Fisher

Bob Gras

Tony Graso

John Grubb

Fritz Habermas

Helmet Habermas

Frank Iacobelli

Dave (Bones) Lewis

Helen Wurmser

Frank Out

Ernie Robinson

Ken Rudd

Ginny Scantoro

Benny Scantoro



# Activity in 1960

Fred Delibero  
Judy Di Lallo  
Diane Huizinga

Walt Habermas  
Chuck Hoppe

Harvey Smith  
Lynn Sylvia

## Program

1. GRAND ENTRY - Entire Cast
  2. BATON BAFFLE - Diane Huizinga
  3. CALISTHENICS - Members of Youth Division - Norman Brosniak, Dir.
  4. TRAPEZE FOR TWO - Joe Fillinger and Darlene Delibero
  5. TRAPEZE TRAVESTY - Bob Gras and Dave Lewis
  6. GYMNASTIC EXHIBITION - Junior Gymnastics Club - Bob Gras, Dir.
  7. STAIRWAY FOR A STAR - Virginia Scantoro
  8. TUMBLING TUMBLEWEEDS - Judy, Joyce, Darlene, Rene, Kenny, Chuck, Bob, Frank, "Bones"
  9. WHEE!!! - Walt Habermas, Joan Dooley, Fritz Habermas
- INTERMISSION
10. HABERMAS TROUPE - Fritz, Helmet, and Walter Habermas
  11. SAILORS AT THE BAR - Bob Gras and Frank Iacobelli
  12. EXERCISE IN RHYTHM - YWCA Girls - Elsie Leidiger, Dir.
  13. UPS AND DOWNS - Ken Cary, Fred Delibero, Ken Rudd, Chuck Hoppe, Bob Gras, Frank Iacobelli, David "Bones" Lewis
  14. WRESTLING EXHIBITION - Gus Rapp and Jim La Rosa
  15. YOUNGER THAN SPRINGTIME - Virginia and Bea Scantoro
  16. LIVING STATUES - Miguel Nirves, Bob Gras, Joe Fillinger, Richard Diorio, Frank Iacobelli

# Activity in 1961 & 1962

## Chapter 6

### Two Turbulent and Strange Years

These two years are considered as a unit because of the strange web of events that link the 1961 and 1962 Home shows.

I graduated from the College of Wooster in June of 1961 - after cramming four years of undergraduate study into five years. I was due to start graduate work at Ohio University in September. The previous summer I had gone to Arizona with a buddy, and the two summers before that, I had spent working at a Boy Scout Camp. As my father was getting on in years and not in the best of health, I decided to return to Paterson for the summer and spend some time with my family before going off to graduate school. I had two expectations for the summer. One was to spend time with my family and the other was to get a summer job to make enough money to buy a good used car to take to graduate school. Thus, when I arrived home, I began a search for gainful employment. The search did not go well. It was one of those years when nobody was hiring tool designers and there was not much else available. One day I answered an ad in the newspaper only to find it was for selling sewing machines. This was not for me and I kept looking.

Two days later I answered another ad and it turned out to be the same sewing machine job. I was feeling a little discouraged, but then I realized that I was standing only a block and a half from the YMCA. Going for a 'long shot' I went to the Y to see if perchance they needed a locker room clerk or something. I asked to speak with Bill Lied (Physical Director) and was sent up to see him. When I told him that I was looking for work for the summer, he said that his assistant had left that very morning and he could hire me as Assistant Physical Director for the summer. I found out later that the man I replaced had some personal problems that he needed to deal with, and had been let go less than an hour before I arrived.

My duties would be primarily teaching the youth classes for the summer. Besides that there was 'coverage' - either Bill or I had to be present anytime the Physical Department facilities were open. Also, I would be in charge of any gymnastics or circus activities, but since the Circus Club had died again during my senior year of college, there wasn't any of this to be concerned with.

The next day I reported for work, went to my office and spent an hour or so blocking out a plan for the summer for each of the youth classes. Then I sat back and opened the left bottom drawer of my desk. Here I found records of the Junior Leaders Corps where I had been a member. Then I remembered something that had happened when I was in high school (Not really a high school, but rather Paterson Tech - better known in those days as: Bum's College.) One day we were asked to write down what job we would like to have in ten years. I wrote that I would like to be Assistant Physical Director at the Paterson YMCA. As I walked home that day I thought to myself that it was a stupid thing that I had written. There was just no way that it could happen. But it had just happened and it had been ten years almost to the day! I thought to myself, "I am living a dream. This is going to be a great summer."

Then I opened the bottom right drawer and found the records from the Circus Club. I thought that since I had been involved in reviving the Club in 1956, it could be done again. Warming to the task, I choose a date to hold the show in late August, blocked out a line-up of possible acts, and set-up a preparation schedule to prepare for the show. When I had completed my work, I sat back and looked at what I had done and said, almost out loud, "No, let's face it, this time the Club really is dead. Let it rest in peace." Then I tore up my plans and threw away the pieces.

It was a great summer. I Spent time with my family and bought a good used car. The summer was winding down and I was looking forward to starting graduate school when one Saturday afternoon Bob Gras came up from Somerville to work out. We

## Activity in 1961 & 1962

tumbled, did trampoline, apparatus work, went for a swim, came back to the gym and tumbled and worked the trampoline a second time.

We had trouble on the trampoline because of the poor condition of the bed. I said, "There is an old bed in the Circus Club storeroom. Let's look and see if it is in better condition." We did and it wasn't. Then Bob said "We need a new trampoline bed." To which I replied, "Look at the frame of the trampoline. It has been welded and rewelded and is all warped out of shape. What we need is a new trampoline."

We sat down in Bill Lied's office to think about it. Then Bob said, "I have an idea. Let's hold a Circus Show and raise the money to buy a new trampoline." We went to work and blocked out a show which was to be held two weeks from the day we were sitting there - an impossibly short period of time. However, the show was held and went off well. Thus, for the want of a trampoline bed, the Club was revived again.

At the end of the summer Bill Lied took a position with Wagner College and was replaced at the Paterson YMCA by Art Thomson. I was replaced by the individual I had replaced. He had spent the summer in rehab and was rehired - on probation. Thus, I left to begin graduate work in nuclear physics thinking that it had been a great, but rather strange, summer. Little did I know that I would be caught up in an even stranger web of events before the end of the year.

At Graduate School I was fully occupied trying to keep my head above water in nuclear reactor theory, differential equations, and other 'fun' courses and I had essentially no contact with the Club, except that I did hear that the man I had replaced as Assistant Physical Director and whom had replaced me at the end of the summer had been fired again.

At the beginning of Christmas break I drove home arriving late at night and slept-in the next morning until at 9:30 when I was awakened by a call from Art Thomson. Art told me that since his assistant had been let go he was working extra long hours and asked if I could work during my Christmas break so that he could get some time off. Now, this was not how I wanted to spend my vacation time but I understood his situation and told him that I would work. He told me to come in at 5:00 p.m. and we would work out my work schedule.

When I arrived Art told me what hours I would be working and as he was leaving he pulled a 'Lt. Columbo' on me. Stopping in the doorway he said, "There is one more thing. When the Circus Club people come in tonight, get the names of all those who are going to be in the show Saturday. We need them for a newspaper story."

Two hours later as the Circus Club people were starting to drift in, I was sitting in my office talking to old friends about old times and thinking to my self, "This is not so bad. I am sitting here talking to old friends about old times and getting paid to do it." Then one of the younger members of the Club poked his head in the door to say hello and I recruited him to get a list of all those who were going to be in the upcoming show. When he came back with the list and I looked at it and when I saw how many names were on it, I knew at once, that I had been had. I asked for a meeting of the Club officers.

When they were assembled in my office I asked a series of questions to which I really already knew the answers. "This is a full scale circus show, right?" The answer was, "Yes." "It has been blocked out and tonight is dress rehearsal, right? This time the answer was, "No." Finally I said, "At least the show has been blocked out, right?" Paul Bohrer answered, "We were waiting for you to do that."

With a sigh, I said, "Well, let's get started." Fortunately we were working with very experienced people. There would be no dress rehearsal. Each person took responsibility for one or more acts and would have them ready. The rest was my responsibility. I spent the next day scoring the show. Again with experienced people, so long as I choose appropriate music for each act the performers did not have to hear it in advance. I also recruited a sound and light crew and scheduled a rehearsal for them on Friday afternoon.

On Friday morning I told Art Thomson that we had a problem with the show. He said, "What is it." I replied that there wasn't going to be any audience. The only advertising that had been done was the one newspaper story. "That" I said, "Will bring us two people." Art told me not to worry about it because the only thing our department was responsible for was present-

# Activity in 1961 & 1962

ing the actual show. Everything else was being handled by a different department. It was obvious that there was more to this than meets the eye, but I was too busy to worry about it at this time and went about finishing my preparations for the show.

The next night, just before show time, I looked out into the gym and saw that my prediction about the size of the audience was 100% correct - there were just two people in the audience. I went to auxiliary gym where the cast was gathered and someone said, "There is nobody out there!" I called everyone together and said, "We advertised a Circus Show, and two people have come to see it. They deserve to see a really good show just as much as if there were 200 people out there. Let's get out there and do a really good show!" And we did.

During the show, I took note that there were five other people observing the show. They were up on the track with the spotlight crew, and I recognized them. They were all members of Paterson YMCA Physical Department Committee. When I saw Art Thomson, first thing Monday morning, I said, "OK Art, tell me what's going on here." He said, "When the Circus Club was revived last summer there were some on the staff of the Paterson YMCA who were not pleased. They have been saying that the program ought to be dropped at every staff meeting all through the fall. Walt Lindell (General Secretary) was tired of all the arguing and ordered that the Club should present a show at Christmas time, which would be evaluated by the Physical Department Committee. The decision of the Committee would settle the matter. He further stipulated that all the Club was to do was present the show and those opposing the Club were responsible for everything else - publicity, seating, etc."

The group opposing the Circus Club, however, made a great blunder by assuming that show would be very poor, and when the Physical Department reported this, they would be able to say that the reason they didn't do the publicity etc. was that they didn't want the Paterson YMCA embarrassed in front of a lot of people. Therefore, being that the Committee reported that the show was excellent, but there was no audience, that is just two people, those who were opposing the Club were now 'in the dog house.'

I said, "Good, I am glad. They deserve it." Then Art said, "Walt Lindell wants to see you first thing today. So you had better get on down to his office." When I arrived at Walt Lindell's office he congratulated me on the show and then said something for which I was totally unprepared. He said that if I would be willing to work the following summer, they would use part-time help until then and fill the position on a permanent basis at the end of that summer. I told him that I would let him know as soon as I got back to Ohio University.

When I got back to Ohio University I removed my name from the list applying for summer employment there, accepted the offer at Paterson, and started, via mail, (snail mail) bouncing ideas off everyone I knew in the Paterson area. I was determined to hit the ground running so that the Club could present one of its greatest Home Shows ever in August of 1962. What followed was one of the happiest summers of my life.

Preparation for the 1962 Home Show was not without its problems, but all things considered, on whole, it went well. As the show date grew near I was confident that it was going to be a good show. However, on the first night of the show, about fifteen minutes into the show, I realized that not only was it going to be a good show, but had the potential to be a really great show.

Then, immediately, I was in a state of panic. What if something were to go wrong and ruin everything? I started checking on every detail to keep this from happening - as if that were possible. At this point Joe Fillingier came to my rescue. I asked him if everything was covered for the statutory act and he said, "Jerry, go worry somewhere else. I have this under control." This rebuke brought me back to my senses and I relaxed and enjoyed the rest of the Show - that night and the next.

The Show that year was everything I had hoped it would be and more. My fiancée came to Paterson from Cleveland to see the Show and the day following the second performance we officially announced our engagement to cap off a really great summer.

The 1962 Show was the last I was in. It was fifteen years after that scrawny kid had a bit part in the 1947 Show (Thank You Buck Newstrom) and there is no doubt that those fifteen years changed my life forever.

# Activity in 1961 & 1962

**20th Annual Home Show - August 18th 1961**

**Physical Director - Wm. J. Lied, Jr.**

**Assistant Physical Director - Jerry Calkin**

**Show Coordinator - Jerry Calkin**

**Show Directors - Robert Gras, Frank Iacobelli, Joe Fillinger, and David Lewis**

**Ringmaster - Wm. J. Lied, Jr.**

## **Circus Club Performers**

Joe Fillinger

Jerry Calkin

Nick Pomarico

Fred Holden

Al Grimaldi

Bill Byrne

Bob Gras

Roger Bornstein

John DeGroot

Nick Kubisky

Enrico Carlozzi

Frank Iacobelli

Renee Royer

Tom Dowd

Dave (Bones) Lewis

Mike Crozier

## **Jr. Leaders Club**

Harry Cooper

Harry Conti

Robert Sidney

Ross Eadie

Mark Mulzet

Kenneth Crozier

Anthony Puglia

James Cunningham

Edward Pomarico

## **3rd and 4th Grade Boys (Indians)**

Thomas Redman

Don Cusick

Joe Lillo

Tom Pratt

Dave Clinton

Joe Revfi

Joe Toebes

William Redman

John Wolf

Victor Blum

Mike Negrotto

John Pursley

Mike Brown

Chuck Bishop

Mike DeGraw

Paul Negrotto

Mike Cutillo

Mark Negrotto

Mike Palarino

John Stevens

Frank Jofis

## **5th and 6th Grade Boys (Pioneers)**

Rich Cerrulli

Mike Wolfe

Tom Krause

Russell Believe

Charles Spinella

Victor Dukmasow

# Activity in 1961 & 1962

Frank Quackenbush  
Harry Cooper  
Crag Jowett  
Rienk Kay  
Greg Taylor

Tom Baranoski  
Garry Crawford  
Len Leonidas  
Cleveland Kelley

Tom Crawford  
Billy Jamieson  
Tom Jowett  
Don Oxley

## 7th and 8th Grade Boys (Trailblazers)

Ron Van Houten  
Bob Head  
Robert Valentine  
Ed Kentusky  
Randy DuBose  
Mario Mandara  
Irving Hilbert  
Tom Robinson  
Arthur Johnson  
Bill Carlos  
Joe Cheff  
Mike Crozier

Garry Gioreano  
Gerhart Malbacho  
Wilfred DeRosado  
Alex Miroshnichenko  
Alex Carter  
Anthony DiRicco  
Larry Thomas  
Clarence Murphy  
Rich Harkley  
Bill Misselbeck  
Art Heyeard

Anthony Gioreano  
Bill Guthrie  
Joe Emold  
Tom Cuccinello  
Garry Carter  
Larry Agosta  
Sam Breaker  
Doug Tuscano  
Ted Misselbeck  
Sam Chidiac  
Ed Heater

## 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Girls

Pat Anderson  
Jean DeAugustinis  
Fran Vero  
Janice Henry  
Jean Ott

Sharon Thompson  
Susan Cusick  
Nancy Eadie  
Elaine Rumaniak  
Christine Shadiack

Lynn Henry  
Linda Cusick  
Lynn Sambataro  
Janet Campbell  
Evelyn DeGraw

## 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Girls

Janet Palmieri  
Ruth Maldon  
Uta Froeichlich  
Paulette Robinson  
Kathy Dinger  
Bonny Murry  
Linda DeAugustinis  
Isabelle Grassi  
Linda Shadiack

Michele Mulzet  
Maureen Fossacret  
Pat Recino  
Maryann Sanford  
Janice Eadie  
Kathy Hall  
Muriel Yarcich  
Carol Beharka  
Danette D'Amelio

Barb Rubano  
Olga Vacca  
Rita Anderson  
Lynn Evans  
Nancy Avolio  
Louise Hall  
Carol Murphy  
Faye Sambataro  
Filomena Grassi



# Activity in 1961 & 1962

## Acknowledgements

LIGHTS - Al Grimaldi and Enrico Carlozzi

PROGRAM - Jessie Eadie

TICKETS - Evelyn and Allan Thomas

ROUST-A-BOUTS - YMCA Jr. Leaders

## Program

1. OBSTACLE RUN - 3rd and 4th Grade Boys
2. ONE GIRL AND TWO SAILORS AT A BAR - Renee, Bob, and Jerry
3. HORSE VAULTING - 5th and 6th Grade Boys and Circus Club
4. TRAMPOLINE - 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Girls, 7th & 8th Grade Boys, and Circus Club
5. TRAPEZE - Joe and Renee
6. A TABLE WITH CHAIRS - Bob, Frank, and Jerry
7. FLYING RINGS - Circus Club
8. TUMBLING - 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Girls
9. 500 POINT PHYSICAL FITNESS CONTEST - Jr. Leaders Corps
10. CALISTHENICS - Cast
11. LIVING TABLEAUX - Circus Club

## Road Shows (Month, event, attendance)

Paterson YMCA - December(1961) Christmas Show, 2

## Road Shows (Month, event, attendance)

Haskell - September 17 1962, Circus Show, No Data

**21st Annual Home Show** - August 24th & 25th 1962

**Physical Director** - Arthur B. Thomson, Jr.

**Associate Physical Director** - Jerry Calkin

**Show Coordinator** - Jerry Calkin

**Show Directors** - Paul Bohrer, Joe Fillinger, & Jerry Krawitz

# Activity in 1961 & 1962

**Ringmaster - Wm. J. Lied, Jr**

## **Circus Club Performers**

Jerry Calkin	Joe Fillinger	Ulla Hahne
Bob Gras	Mrs. Louise Mills	Ed Pomarico
Roger Bornstein	Judy Bohrer	June Biber
Richard Piccirilli	Jack Bornstein	Doug Bohrer
Darlene Smith	Theresa Lorusso	Janice Eadie
Julia Monacelli	William Carlos	Henry De Jong
Nick Kubisky	Guistine Pirozzi	Francine Krawitz
Tony Graso	Paul Bohrer	Dave Lewis
Frank Iacobelli	Jerry Krawitz	Russel Scull
Nick Pomarico	Renee Royer	Seriah Gehman
Karen Zwerver	Richard Scott	Harry Conti
Jean Holden	Ross Eadie	Nancy Eadie
Kevin Moore	Fred Holden	Morris Brown
John Smith	Barbara Krawitz	

## **Boys - Grades 3 and 4**

Brian Boyle	David Payne	Bill George
Jim Leskowsky	Dominic Pagano	Vincent Spinella
Charles Spinella	Charles Patti	Vincent Porcha
Thomas Barrett	Philip Bradley	Mike Diakos
Eddie Prol	Pete Kleskovic	Dennis Deacon
John Valinote	Wilson Bowser	Wilson Maggetts
Jack Patton	Paul Porcha	Maurice Guest
George Holick	Albert De Young	Mike Vigorita

## **Boys - Grades 5 and 6**

Dennis Komsa	Al Britt	Craig Viglione
John Suchosky	Al Roth	Ludeman Eng
Bill Kearney	Angen Rodrigiez	Jim Van Pelt
John Boyas	Luciano Cannella	Jeff Killian
Tom Redman	Jim Gordon	Fred Belhea
Lou Finck	Phil Brown	Dan Gerardi
Doug Urciuoli	Hen Menger	James Murray

# Activity in 1961 & 1962

Jerry Selleck  
Norman Lamoureux  
Jesse McCoy  
Bill Redman  
Gary McAlister  
Len Craren  
Frank Rozier  
Mike Grinwis  
Mike De Graw  
Gerard Lobosco

Mike Selleck  
Peter LaKacrko  
John Mateo  
Charles Pritchard  
Jim Verbeke  
Jim Cascone  
Ben Denkins  
John Gacones  
Ed Yarmchuck  
Ricky Maher

Joe Shamah  
Harry Cooper  
John Schmidt  
John Morgan  
Willie Leehahn  
John Lubyck  
Jim kuykendall  
Fred Folco  
Kevin Glover

## Boys - Grades 5 and 6

Ron Roach  
Dennis Marco  
Keith Westphal  
Bill DellaPesca  
Len Hendricks  
Sam Pirozzi  
Ron Califre  
Dennis DellaPesca

Ed Hendricks  
Jethro James  
Frank Califre  
Bob Yarmchuk  
Tony Kayal  
Vincent DelVecchio  
Kevin Naudts  
Jim Wehling

Bill Jolloffee  
Vincent Cortese  
Ed House  
Craig McPhee  
Vincent Sandy  
Mike Spatuzzo  
Lit Soo Hoo  
Jack Man Enj

## Girls - Grades 3 Through 8

Linda Makarowski  
Darleen Morgan  
SueAnn Schotanus  
Carol Killeen  
Kathy Marrone  
Sue Boyas  
Irene Stevens  
Jean DeAugustinis  
Cathie Gennaro  
Joyce LoBue  
Donna Pietkewicz  
Janice Magura  
Dorjon Lubyck  
Kathy Doran  
Karen Wynalda  
Julia Monacelli

Sarah Lyness  
Joan Angelo  
Theresa Lorusso  
Donna War  
Janice Eadie  
Mary Ambrose  
Janet Manzo  
Maureen Fossacrets  
Corinne Barbiero  
Claire Ribbe  
Kathy Killeen  
Judy Collins  
Kathy Molloy  
Pamela Peacock  
Gloria Pelosi

Linda Townley  
Debbie Townley  
Nancy Eadie  
Linda Lamwers  
Blanch Ambrose  
Elaine Rumaniak  
Linda Chara  
Danna Wynalda  
Linda DeAugustinis  
Evelyn DeGraw  
Darleen Smith  
Regan Ihde  
Gerriann Izzo  
Lois De Ritter  
Lily Marchese

# Activity in 1961 & 1962

## Acknowledgements

PROGRAM - Jessie Eadie

TICKETS - Allan Thomas

CONCESSIONS - Evelyn Thomas & Thomas Eadie

SOUND - John J. Grubb

## Program

### 1. SWINGAMANIA

A. SWINGING ON THE PARALLEL BARS - Bob Gras, Jerry Calkin, & Tony Graso

B. PARALLELMANIA - (Clown Routine) Roger Bornstien & Russ Scull

C. SWINGING ON THE HORIZONTAL BAR - Jerry Krawitz, Tony Graso, Bob Gras, & Jerry Calkin

D. HORIZONTALMANIA - (Clown Routine) Henry De Jong & Rich Scott

### 2. BALANCE SUPREME

A. BALANCE ON THE LADDERS - Judy Bohrer, Karen Zwerver, Darlene Smith, Francine Krawitz, Janice Eadie, Renee Royer, June Biber, Julia Monacelli, Jerry Krawitz, & Barbara Krawitz

B. BALANCE ON THE SINGLE TRAPEZE - Judy Bohrer, Renee Royer, & Karen Zwerver

C. BALANCE ON THE FLOOR - Karen Zwerver

D. BALANCE ON THE DOUBLE TRAPEZE - Joe Fillinger & Judy Bohrer

### 3. AGILITY SUPREME

A. AGILITY ON THE MAT - Jack Bornstein, Doug Bohrer, Roger Bornstein, Bob Gras, Harry Conti, Ed Pomarico, Jerry Calkin, Renee Royer, Nancy Eadie, Joe Fillinger, Judy Bohrer, Karen Zwerver, June Biber, Nick Kubisky, Nick Pomarico, Kevin Moore, Ross Eadie, Rich Piccirilli, & Janice Eadie

B. AGILITY ON THE FLOOR - Judy Bohrer, Nick Kubisky, Roger Bornstein, Karen Zwerver, Nick Pomarico, Jerry Calkin, June Biber, & Renee Royer

C. MORE AGILITY ON THE FLOOR - Tony Graso

D. AGILITY & BALANCE ON THE FLOOR - Joe Fillinger and Renee Royer

E. AGILITY ON THE MAT & FLOOR - Judy Bohrer, Roger Bornstein, Jack Bornstein, Bob Gras, Harry Conti, Ed Pomarico, Jerry Calkin, Janice Eadie, Nancy Eadie, John Smith, Doug Bohrer, Theresa Lorusso, Karen Zwerver, June Biber, Nick Kubisky, Nick Pomarico, Kevin Moore, Ross Eadie, Renee Royer, Rich Piccirilli, Morris Brown, Jean Holden, Guistine Pirozzi, Julia Monacelli

## INTERMISSION

4. WIRE THRILLS - Judy Bohrer, Doug Bohrer, Jerry Krawitz, Francine Krawitz, Barbara Krawitz

# Activity in 1963

## Chapter 7

### The Final Years

#### Activity in 1963

**22nd Annual Home Show - June 7th and 8th**

**Director - Paul Bohrer**

**Show Chairman - Jerome Krawitz**

**Ringmaster - Arthur B. Thomson, Physical director**

#### Circus Club Performers

##### Men

Douglas Bohrer  
Jack Bornstein  
Roger Bornstein  
Roy Caramanna  
John Caramanna  
Frank DiCandis  
Joe Miller  
George Mills  
Ed Pomarico  
Rich Piccirilli  
Bob Gras  
Tony Graso  
Jerry Krawitz  
Russell Scull  
Kenneth Scanlon  
Bob Zoon  
Nick Pomarico

##### Women

Judy Bohrer  
Julie Burks  
Jean Holden  
Gynne Jackson  
Barbara Krawitz  
Francine Krawitz  
Guistine Pirozzi  
Sharon Simonetti  
Deborah Simonetti  
Darlene Smith  
Maria Mills  
Bonnie Murray  
Sharon Sellarole  
Patricia Snyder  
Christina Tyndall  
Lori-Jo Tyndall  
Karen Zwerver  
Jo-Ann Miller

#### Trapeze Performer

Hazel Bradley

# Activity in 1963

## Brooklyn (NY) Central YMCA Girls Gym Team

Marian Ferretti  
Gerri Reilly

Rose-Ann Amari  
Gerry Muscael

Carol Fanelli

## Hand Balancers

Doug Kelly and Vince Fabisak

## Acknowledgements

LIGHTING - Hank Serviss, Ken Becker, Joe Christenson, Tom Wilson, and Anthony Pienkiwicz

PROPS - Rich Piccirilli and Nick Pomarico

BOOSTERS - Roy Caramanna and Marian Ferretti

REFRESHMENTS - Evelyn Thomas, Carol Lewandowski, and Bob Varcadipane

ADMISSION AND PROGRAM DISTRIBUTION - George Barradale, and Allan Thomas

SEATING - Chris Monze

MUSIC - Bob Ferretti

WOMEN'S COSTUMES - Judy Bohrer and Karen Zwerver

MEN'S UNIFORMS - Nick Pomarico

TICKETS AND PROGRAMS - Evelyn Thomas

## Program

GRAND MARCH

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

APPARATUS

BALANCING LADDERS

DOUBLE TRAPEZE

GROUP FREE EXERCISE

TRAMPOLINE

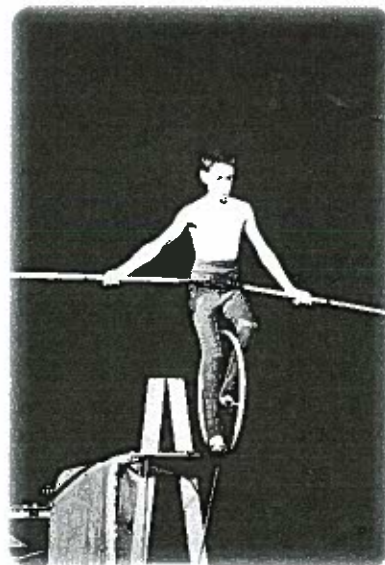
ELEPHANT LEAPING

INTERMISSION

WIRE WALKERS

(See picture of Doug Bohrer to the right.)

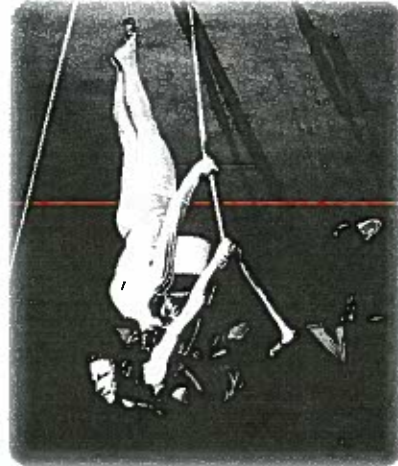
FIRE FLIES





# Activity in 1963 & 1964

ROLLY - ROLLY  
TUMBLING  
BAMBOO DANCE  
TRIPLE TRAPEZE  
(See picture of Judy Bohrer and Jerry Krawitz to the right.)  
HAND BALANCERS  
TABLEAUX



## Activity in 1964

**23rd Annual Home Show - May 15th and 16th 1964**

### Club Officers

**President - Roger Bornstein**  
**Women's Captain - Judith Bohrer**  
**Men's Captain - Bob Zoon**  
**Managers - Ed Pomarico, Jack Bornstein, Rich Piccirilli**  
**Coaches - Paul Bohrer, Bob Gras, Louise Mills, Joe Fillinger**

**YMCA Staff Advisor - Bob Ferretti**  
**Physical Director - Arthur B. Thomson, Jr.**

**Chairman, Physical Department Committee - Robert Wardle**

### Circus- Gymnastics Club Performers

Judy Bohrer	Karen Zwerver	Jo-Ann Miller
Maria Mills	Jackie Stewart	Jill Van Der Ploeg
Darlene Smith	Guistine Pirozzi	Joy Hanlon
Francine Krawitz	Florian Zundl	Tony Graso
Douglas Bohrer	Bob Zoon	Joe Miller
Bob Gras	Ed Pomarico	Nick Pomarico
Rich Piccirilli	Jack Bornstein	Roger Bornstein
Raymond Martin	Joey Gyde	Jerry Krawitz
John Stephens		

# Activity in 1964

## Youth Division Members

Ray Pulse  
Greg Krause  
James Coley  
Carl Pierce

James DiFallo  
John Krause  
Bob Sloezen

Billy Depsee  
Jesse Albert  
Randy Simonetti

## Brooklyn-Central Girls

Rose-Ann Amari  
Carol Fanelli

Gerri Reilly  
Rochelle Lynneworth

Gerry Muscatel  
Marian Ferretti

## Trapeze Artist

Hazel Bradley

## Rhythm in Balance

Bill and Barbara Collins

## Acknowledgements

LIGHTING - Hank Serviss, Ken Becker, Joe Christenson, Tom Wilson, and George Mugno

PROPS - Rich Piccirilli, Ed Barlow, Bob Gras, and Nick Pomarico

REFRESHMENTS AND ADMISSIONS - Terry Rumler, Evelyn Thomas, Allan Thomas, Carol Lewandowski, Jackie Vrona, Alice Ochetti, Sue Ellen Cashman, Judy Donville

COSTUMES - Karen Zwerver and Judy Bohrer

PROGRAM - Evelyn Thomas

## Program

GRAND MARCH

STAR SPANGLED BANNER

APPARATUS

CIRCLE OF RHYTHM

ARTISTIC AERIAL ARTISTS

BONGO BOARD BALANCE

COUNTRY STYLE

# Activity in 1964 & 1965

FLOOR EXERCISE  
YOUTH DIVISION EXHIBITION  
THUNDER AND LIGHTNING  
INTERMISSION  
WIRE WALKING WONDERS  
ELEPHANT LEAPING  
ROMAN LADDERS  
JUMPING JACKS  
TRAPEZE THRILLS  
DANCING FLAMES  
BALANCE SUPREME  
STATUES OF STRIFE

## Activity in 1965

**24th Annual Home Show - May 1965**

# Chapter 8

## The Club, and Its Members

In this chapter various members of the Club will express themselves on, what the Club meant to them, the people in the club who were mentors to them, etc.

### OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT

Some have had the opportunity to not only participate in the Club, but also to be one of those who step into the spotlight and are seen by the audience. There are, however, many who remain outside of the spotlight and are never seen by the audience.

These are the people who, among other things operate the spotlights, work at the concession stands, write newspaper articles, type up the programs, put up and take down the bleachers, clean up afterwards, etc. In short they do all the things that must be done for a successful performance. How well they do their assignments can make or break a show.

If they get any credit, it is a mention in the acknowledgements part of the program - you know, the part of the program that practically no one ever reads. Many times they are not even listed in the acknowledgements. Yet, if they make a mistake along the way, there are plenty of people ready to bark at them about their failings.

Too often, those of us who have had the privilege of being in the spotlight, give no thought to how important these 'out of the spotlight' workers are. Sometimes what they do is even more important to the success of the show than some who are in the spotlight. I know that this was absolutely the case with my contribution to the 1947 Show.


Therefore I wish to salute the many people who have worked so diligently behind the scenes down through the years. Thank you!

*jerry calkin*

### One of the Pioneers Who Started It All

Just before the start of the first performance of the 1947 Home Show Buck Newstrom read, to the cast, a congratulatory telegram from Jack Ault. At the time I wondered just who this Jack Ault was. It turns out that he is one of the people who started it all. Perhaps he was the key figure at the time the Club was organized.

Others had a desire to start the Club, but Jack had the vision and organizational skills to make it happen. Jack never appeared in a Circus Club Show. He was the one who made the shows happen. Some feel the without Jack's presence at the Paterson YMCA, there would have been no Circus Club.



Jack started at the Paterson YMCA in September 1929 as Associate Physical Director. Before he retired in September of 1946, he had risen to the position of Associate General Executive. During his tenure he started the: Bar Bell Club, Tennis Club, Camera Club, Program Council, Inter-Racial Commission, Girl's Service Organization, Owl Club, Outing Club, Junior Glee Club, and the Paterson YMCA Circus Club.

Thank you, Jack.

*Jerry Calkin*



# **Chapter 9**

## **Life After the Circus**

In this Chapter various members of the Club will tell what they, or someone they knew, did after participating in the Club.



## Epilogue

After two computer failures and the time consuming process of data recovery - with a lot of help from my friends, it is good to be ready with a draft copy of this Circus Club history. While this draft copy represents a milestone in completing this History there is much yet to be done. I have already compiled a list of changes and additions for draft 2.

As this project has proceeded, I have come to have a deep appreciation of the many dedicated leaders who led this vibrant Club down through the years. Doing the research, I was constantly amazed by how little I knew about the Club and its members when I was active in the organization. I have also gained insight as to the service aspect of the Club - to its members, to the Paterson YMCA, and to the community in general.

This was best summed up by the statement Walter A. Lindell that was printed in the program of the 1962 Home Show. (See his statement in Chapter 6.) As I was typing in his statement, I came to realize just how salutary the Club has been for all involved, and have come to understand how privileged I was to be a member of the Paterson YMCA Circus Club.

*Jerry Calkin*



# Activity in 1961 & 1962

5. ROLLY-ROLLY - Julia Monacelli, Jerry Krawitz, Barbara Krawitz, Darlene Smith, Jean Holden, Guistine Pirozzi

6. GYMAMANIA

A. TRAMPOLINE - Girls - Grades 3 through 8

B. MORE TRAMPOLINE - Janice Eadie & Morris Brown, Richard Piccirilli, Nick Kubisky, Bob Gras

C. TUMBLING - 3rd & 4th Grade Boys

D. SIDE HORSE - 5th & 6th Grade Boys

E. PARALLEL BARS - 7th & 8th Grade Boys

7. LIVING STATUTES - Bob Gras, Russ Scull, Richard Piccirilli, Nick Pomarico, Henry De Jong, Roger Bornstein, Tony Graso, Joe Fillinger, Nick Kubisky, Fred Holden

## From the Program

WELCOME TO THE PATERSON YMCA

On behalf of the entire staff of the Young Men's Christian Association of Paterson, I wish to extend a warm welcome.

You are attending the twenty-first annual performance of a Club with a remarkable history. From its membership rolls have come men who have staffed the Physical Departments in at least five other YMCAs and men and women who have entered fields of endeavor as widely divergent as homemaking and Nuclear Physics.

No less than six other gymnastics groups, spread out from Paterson, New Jersey to Wooster, Ohio, can trace their origin to the Paterson YMCA Circus Club.

The Club has helped buy Physical Department equipment - this year the proceeds will be used for a new set of parallel bars - and has provided leadership for more than twenty-one years now, and in addition, paid for the construction of one cabin at the YMCA Resident Camp at Silver Lake.

The real measure of the success or failure of the Circus-Gymnastics Club is not whether or not its show duplicates the efforts of Barnum & Bailey, but its services to others and the training its members receive.

In the past it has met this challenge with no small measure of success and I know that with your kind support it will continue to do so in the future.

WALTER A. LINDELL,  
General Executive