

CIRCUS ALUMNUS NOW LEADS LIFE AS PLAIN STUDENT

Dan Davis, Mercer Band Director, Once With Buffalo Bill Circus.

Then ho to the circus! You were a small boy and you stumped your toes many a time in your eagerness to get to the "Big Top" ahead of the "gang." And more than likely you had not the price of admission, so you had to slip under the tent. There was a thrill, a glamour about the circus which you could not resist when you were in your barefoot days. And what boy has not had that overwhelming urge to run away and join the circus?

Though many boys feel this urge, very few are courageous enough to leave home and mother long enough to begin such an adventure.

Yet Dan Davis, better known as "Big Dan", will tell you that he not only heard the clarion call of the tinseled world, but obeyed it.

Dan was seventeen then. And boys are likely to do most anything at seventeen—even falling in love with Marjorie across the street.

Advertisement Inspires Dan was living in the picturesque little town of Blakely where the lure of the circus clutched him: He and a boyhood playmate saw a bill board advertisement proclaiming that a musician was wanted for Buffalo Bill's Wild West circus in Bliss Oklahoma. Well, Dan was a musician—at least he could blow a trombone a little.

They landed in a small western town at the eerie hour of midnight, a town in which Dan says there "wasn't but four houses and a couple of stars." Dan and his sidekick parked their weary frames in the depot for the night.

The next morning they joined the band wagon of the circus, but Dan says he did not get to blow his horn much because he was kept busy scar-ing long-horn steers out of the road.

Circus life was pretty hard. There were two performances daily, and the two young adventurers did not have much time to loaf. But they did get to see all kinds of champions—horse champions, steer champions, champion ropers, dog-training champions and bronco champs—enough champs to give Dan an eyeful of the wild and woolly West.

Came the day when Dan's buddy, Guy, got into an argument with the bronco buster over a poker game. The Bronco Buster was a big, ugly-looking chap about twice the size of Guy. So Guy pulls a gun, only to have it snatched from his hand by our hero, Dan. As a reward for saving him from his rash purpose Guy presented Dan with a handsome brass trombone, won in a poker game. Dan says he has thought a great deal of the boy ever since.

Loves Cow-Girl But alas! There were girls in the show! And Big Dan lost his heart to a winsome lass by the name of Gertie, playing in a cow-girl act. Dan says he loved Gertie with all the passion of his seventeen-year-old heart. She was seventeen, too,—and wondrously fair, Dan confesses.

The love affair between the two waned, however, with the fall of the year when school and books and other earthly things called. They found that they were just like other humans—the rose-colored dream days were over and Dan and his soul mate had to part, Dan to return to school, Gertie remaining with the circus. So they came, sadly, to the parting of the ways. For some time after his return to Georgia "Big Dan" says Gertie favored him with her letters, but after a time even those drops of heaven ceased—and he doesn't hear from her any more.

Thus the romance and adventure of Dan Davis, Mercerian, musician, and jazz hound, came to an end though in the short time that he was with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show he toured west enchanted by the lure of the "Big Top," enraptured by the glamour of tinseled bespangled days of the circus.

Things to worry about—About the best thing right now is what may happen to certain freshmen when upper classmen absorb this issue of the Cluster.

Scribe Unbeguiles Why and Wherefore of Campus Handles

"Crook," "Son," "Goofy" and Other Mercer Monickers Studied Scientifically.

By Clank Burghard

Why is a nickname? Why and how does it originate? And to whom is a nickname applied? To answer these burning questions ye reporter was sent out to gather the complete wherefor and whither-away of the nickname situation at Mercer.

Reason for nicknames may be divided into three classes: First, there is the contraction, alteration or abbreviation of a chappie's name. A few horrible examples of which are "Smitty," "Taboriaki," "Bori," and "Grecho."

Then there is the signalling out of of some physically prominent characteristic such as "Tubby," "Red," "Goofy," the inevitable "Slim," and "Barrel House Shorty."

The third class embraces as many as both the other two. In this group men are given nicknames for some special act or incident of their experience, for some mannerism or twist of character, or for some especial accomplishment. No one knows when a nickname will start or for how long it will stick.

It was discovered that in almost every instance men who were given nicknames were well liked by their fellows. They were named in a spirit of good fellowship and friendliness. Rarely, if ever, is a man found on the campus who was given a nickname, or fancy title, to embarrass or hurt him.

It would take from here to way over on the back of the last page, and crowd most of the advertising from it, to list all the men in the school who are the proud bearers of nicknames. Chief among the monicker toters is head cheer leader "Parson" Chandler, the man who can buck dance, and out sing and out preach any negro preacher.

And who on the campus knows the real first names of any of the following boys: "Shorty" Poore, "Son" Sammons, "Rusty" Lawrence, "Scot-

JAZZ ORCHESTRA HAS TEN PIECES

"Dan Davis' Collegians" New Name of Former Kings of Rhythm

"Dan Davis' Collegians" is to be the cognomen by which the Mercer Glee Club's jazz orchestra will be known this year. With a large orchestra by three pieces than last year, there now being ten jazz hounds composing the orchestra, the group of collegiate syncopaters promises to be the best one yet, according to Davis.

The jazz orchestra of last year, known as the "Seven Kings of Rhythm," was one of the outstanding hits on the Glee Club and favorable comment was made through the press all over the state concerning the quality of unadulterated jazz the Mercerians managed to inject into their instruments.

The orchestra has been busy at practice almost daily during the past week in preparation for the first road trip which is to be made about November 14. Some changes have been made on the personnel of the orchestra from that of last year and four additions have been made, making a ten-piece orchestra, the largest Mercer has ever had. It is said:

Those composing the orchestra are: Roy Parker, Ralph Johnson, Jimmie McGlothlin, Walter Burke, "Monk" McAllister, James Dudley, Ed. Benton, Bob Lee, Ralph Tabor, and Dan Davis.

ly" Young, "Kid Cecil," "Major" Pettaway, "Red" Simmons, "Chink" Fuller, "Dizzy," "Pierback," or even the famous "Crook" Smith?

Lastly, we would like for you to consider the well-known nickname of Professor . . . But, who! All four brakes, driver! Our instructions were to leave the faculty out of the discussion. Suffice it to say, then, that many of the faculty have been given endearing appellations of which, we feel sure, they are justly proud.

Things to worry about—Leonard Williams got a letter from Derby Snellgrove's girl.

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