

## From Circus Posters To Fine Art Salons

HENRY G. KELLER, grand old man of art in Cleveland, O., began his career making circus posters. Today, with his oil and water color paintings hanging in the Cleveland School of Art, and his lithographs and etchings exhibited in the Cleveland Museum of Art, he can look back on those days with a tolerant smile.

Married at 20, Keller took up theatrical and circus lithography to earn the money for four years' art study in Europe. The posters had wonderful, lurid titles, he recalls. Among them were such neat bits of phrasing as: "Two Orphans Cast Into the Storm," "Monte Cristo Breaking Prison Bars," "Tawny Denizens of the Jungle" and "The Congress of Rough Riders of the World."

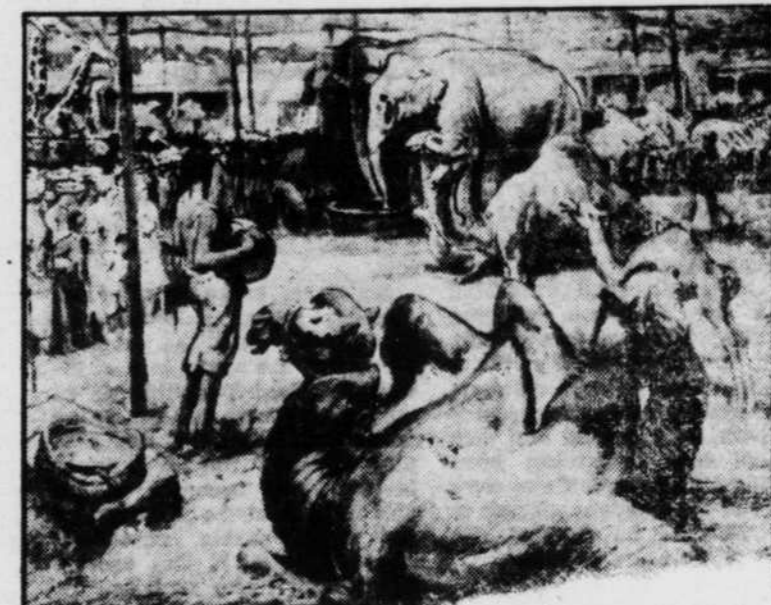
"That was the period before movies, before vaudeville," Keller recalls. "There was just the real theater—melodrama and the circus—all respectable. About that time two brothers, Imri and Balasi Kiralfy, introduced a lighter form of entertainment—"The Black Crook."

"I 'made paper,' as we called it in those days, for the Kiralfy shows. My subjects were mostly chorus girls with ripped-in waists." Keller made posters in sections about 40 inches in length. His biggest one had 124 sheets. As soon as one section was finished, it was snatched away. So he had to carry the whole picture in his mind as he went along and make it come out right.

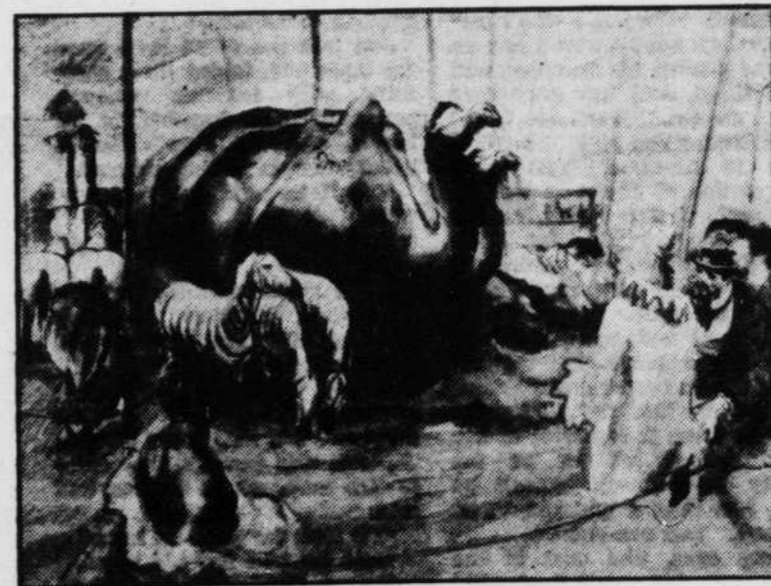
"The lithographers were mostly a wild lot," Keller recalls. He once asked which way the legs of a galloping horse should go. "Look, kid," was the retort, "when you don't know how anything ought to go—make dust!"

These circus posters taught Keller a lot. Today he is one of America's greatest painters of animals. He won the Davis Purchase Prize in 1928 and the Blair Purchase Prize in 1929. Shown on this page are reproductions of his famous paintings and drawings of animals.

"When I was making paper," Keller says, "I used every trick, faked anything I could. But a two-edged sword lay between commercial art and my high art. In the latter, I never drew a line unless I was sure how it would look."



FINE DAY FOR THE CIRCUS



FIRST SHOW AT TWO



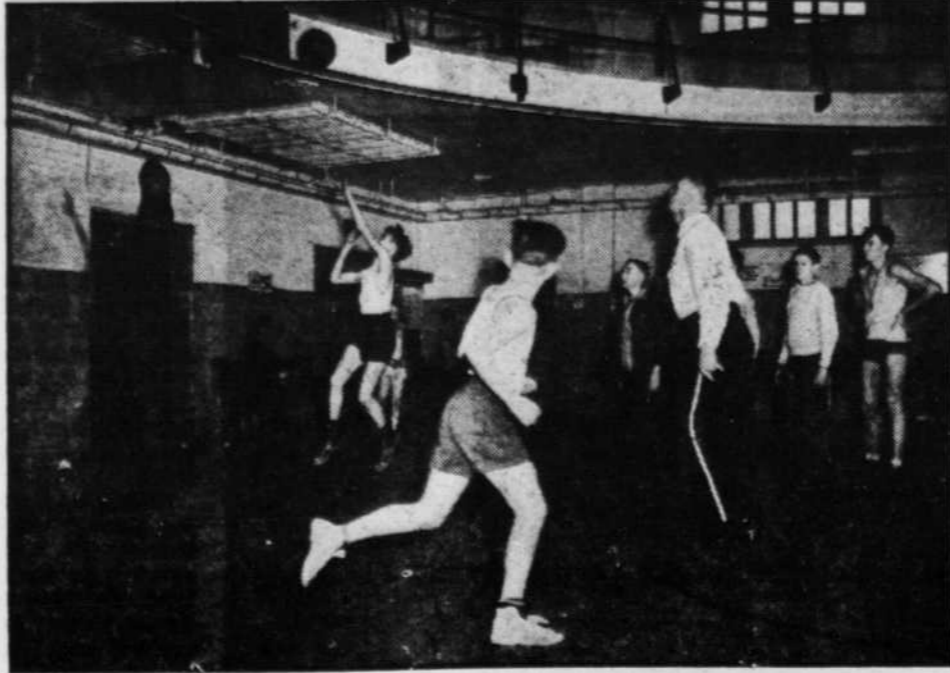
STORM FRIGHTENED ANIMALS



THREE BURROS



DANGEROUS DAY for school-age boys is Saturday. With parents in war plants, these youngsters need supervision.



PLANNED RECREATION solves the problem of Saturday. In the gym, youthful energy is diverted into safe channels.

# Geneva's Plan for Juveniles

By Harley D. Thayer

WE say youth is at the awkward age. Today our teen-age boys and girls might justifiably answer that civilization is at an awkward age for them.

They have to undergo their adolescent growing pains while a topsy-turvy world reels under the tension and insecurity of global war. The situation is proving too much for some of these teen-agers who, with the supporting influence of a well-ordered society, might well be able to pass the intervening years from childhood to adulthood without eventualities.

Next to the responsibility of parents for the conduct of their children comes the obligation of the community to protect its less fortunate members and promote the integrity of its future citizenry, as well as its civic reputation.

Each town and city must work out its own methods of meeting its local problems. There is no typical situation or rule-of-thumb formula. Boom town, soldier town, naval base, ship yard, and the numerous variations of such local situations—each calls for community action adapted to its own needs and resources.

However, the real experience of one town may serve to present this important home-front problem in terms of human beings, including the teens age—rather than cold statistics or generalizations. So—as the travelogues would put it—we take you now to Geneva, N. Y.:

Geneva, located in New York's scenic Finger Lakes region, is a representative American town. Its history goes back 150 years. Geneva, with little growth of population, presented a picture of active, pleasant life in a typical, American community. The changes of the past two years have been vividly reflected in the lives of its young people—and their elders.

Today there are nearly half again as many people in the town as there were a little over a year ago. The population has jumped from approximately 15,500, a figure which had remained stable for many years past, to over 22,000, and this is on the

increase. The scene in Geneva has changed. For instance, on the corner of Exchange and Castle streets, at almost any hour of the day or night, you will find a crowd of young men in the blue or white uniforms of the Navy, just arriving or waiting to leave by bus for the Naval Training Base—the second largest in the country—at Samson, 15 miles down the shore of Seneca Lake.

They are on leave for a few hours from the rigid discipline and training which will prepare them for service on our fighting ships. They look incredibly young and appealingly handsome in their little, round, white Navy hats and sailor collars. They spread out through the business section of the town. Quite understandably they receive more than a passing glance from the astonishing number of very young girls who seem to have reason to be on the downtown streets.

SOME of these young girls come from established families of Geneva. They have seen many of their own hometown teen-age boys leave for other centers of military or naval training and then for service on the fighting front. Some of the girls have come from nearby farms and towns to take jobs in stores, restaurants and other places of business in Geneva. Others have arrived for a few hours, or perhaps a few days, drawn by the lure of streets teeming with uniforms. This scene forms the nucleus of one of Geneva's main youth problems. These young people are in a mood to clutch at any exciting fun which the moment offers in the face of an unstable present and an uncertain future. Relatively few of the girls are looking for money.

The city fathers of Geneva quickly accepted their obligation when the Naval Trainees began to come to their community to spend their few hours of leave. They realized that appropriate and adequate recreation facilities were essential. They explored the possibilities of aid from the federal government and requested the assistance of one of the Federal Security Agency's recreation specialists. With his advice and help, they obtained federal funds to purchase and remodel a building—

formerly a two-story garage—which, in its new dress, now provides a cheery, hospitable place where the boys can write letters, play games, get sandwiches, sweets and soft drinks at minimum cost, and at night can dance with Geneva girls and those from nearby towns.

This building, which is run by the local USO, averages between 1500 and 1700 uniformed visitors daily. On weekends and holidays, the number is far larger. The girls who are enlisted as junior hostesses range from age 17 on up. They come from "nice" families, and represent all social and economic groups in the community. For their protection, arrangements are made for their transportation to and from the dances accompanied by one of the senior hostesses—matrons of the town.

But there remain the girls who are too young to attend the USO dances and those in the town or coming from outside who do not have affiliation with clubs or churches or other organizations which will vouch for their acceptability as hostesses. The actual number of acceptable girls which can be mustered for the dances nightly averages only between 50 and 60. Besides those Naval Training Base boys who choose the hospitality of the USO building, there are also some—as there are everywhere—who are on the lookout for something "more exciting."

Geneva has also seriously considered its obligation to such young people and has been so concerned that a Youth Clinic-Conference was recently called, centering its discussions around the theme "The Needs of Youth in Wartime." There was full recognition that Geneva's youth problem had not reached an alarming stage, but was still enough of a problem that it must be met with all of the co-operation possible from churches, clubs, schools, P. T. A. groups, the City Council, the War Council and every organization concerned with promoting the welfare of youth. Some 250 Genevans and residents of neighboring towns attended the meeting—businessmen, clergymen, recreation leaders, aldermen, scoutmasters, social work and education leaders, as well as parents of young people from Geneva and the surrounding communities.

Ten days after the first meeting, the Youth Clinic-Conference reconvened. Committees established at the first meeting had been studying different phases of the youth problem and methods of approaching it. They brought in their reports on conditions and their recommendations.

They had found that Geneva's record of juvenile delinquency was better than that in many other places of equal size in the country. They had found also that reports on the local situation had been exaggerated. For instance, a rumor had gotten underway that a number of the girls in high school were "in trouble," and, as such rumors go, the number had increased with each telling.

Realizing that exaggerations of the situation could be as pernicious as failure to recognize its seriousness, the city fathers decided to investigate. The rumor was traced back step by step and fortunately the source was found. It had all begun with one person's casual observation that there was some suspicion with reference to one girl.

THE attitude of Geneva citizens toward the problem of helping their teen-age young people to weather the war period is characterized by foresight, common sense, a real personal interest, and willingness to get together in pulling for the main objective—adjusting the points of view and interests of various organizations and subordinating personal feelings to the common good. This is in the face of local political pressures of the sort that seems forever present in every town and city.

Study by the city fathers shows that the boys training for service in the Navy do not in themselves present any community problem. Everyone in the town agrees that the Shore Patrol (the MP's of the Navy), provided by the Samson Naval Base, is doing an excellent job. Yet here again is evidence of the ability and desire of the local people to co-operate in promoting the best interests of the community. Patrolling the areas of the town which present potential sailor-girl trouble is done by the local police in company with members of the Shore Patrol. Each takes care of its own.

Young teen-age girls are their



WEEKEND DANCES are part of Geneva's plan to provide soldiers with recreation. Matrons of the town attend as senior hostesses.



JUNIOR HOSTESSES are enlisted from good families, transported to and from the dances.

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