Welcome, One and All, Who Have Come to Witness the Dangerous, Thrill-seeking and Fantastic life of Ernest Engerer!

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By: Jillian Pallone
Captain Ernest Engerer was born on August 9, 1893, in Konigsberg (Bavaria), Germany. His father Oscar, who also had experience with animals, directed Ernest at a very early age to practice the art of training animals. Ernest even received baby lion cubs as pets at the wee age of four years old!

At the age of sixteen, he graduated from the Hagenbeck Circus School in Hamburg, after which he landed the job of having to round up wild animals for the Hagenbeck Zoo.
A period of military service interrupted his training in lion taming. Finding home service too easy going, he volunteered, in 1910, for the German Southwest African campaign. Ernest made his military mark in brush campaigning and hand-to-hand fighting. By the time the rebellion was put down, he was a full-fledged captain of Hussars, a title he would continue to use throughout his entire career in the states!

Despite his small stature of approximately five feet and his weight of only 130 pounds, Captain Engerer possessed an enormous amount of bravery and courage. After finishing his service in 1914, he and his brother William moved to Long Island, New York, and he continued his previous work with animals.
After immigrating to New York from Germany at the age of 26, Engerer settled in Bellerose, Long Island. During the later half of the 1910’s, he and his brother William worked with animals once again. Although his brother would eventually look for another job, Engerer continued to work with wildlife and took a special interest in large felines such as tigers, lions, and pumas.

Early in his career, while training five tigers, he seemed to have them wrapped around his finger with just a crack of his whip. However, one of the tigers that was supposed to be locked in its cage escaped. While Engerer’s back was turned, the tiger suddenly rushed toward him and smacked him in the back so hard that he fainted. Unfortunately, no one was able to assist him quickly enough and although Engerer escaped with his life, he lost his left arm.

Although this would certainly not be the end of the animal attacks Engerer endured, he still pursued his career and became the first one-armed animal trainer in the world!
Since the day Engerer lost his arm to the tiger in 1918, he worked with domestic animals, especially police dogs.

For the next twelve years, Engerer put much of his focus into his Police Dog Academy, located on Merrick Road in Springfield Gardens, Long Island.

Engerer took a special liking to German Shepherds, stating they are, by personality, one of the best dogs a human can train.

Some of the qualifications to obtain a diploma from his training academy included: attacking prisoners, obedience, protecting the guardian without command, carrying objects, and trailing.
Knowing you to be a lover of dogs and particularly interested in Shepherd Dogs, I take the pleasure of enclosing two tickets (which I hope you will be able to use) for the Tournament: I am giving to demonstrate the remarkable feats that these dogs are capable of accomplishing.

Due to the fact that the seating capacity is limited, I have taken the liberty of reserving a number of the best seats for such of my friends as I know are interested in these dogs. I am sure you will find the time very delightfully spent.

I will appreciate your remittance or the tickets in the enclosed envelope, returned to me on or before September 1st.

Thanking you for past courtesies, I am,

Very cordially yours,

E. A. Engler

EVENTS

POLICE DOG TOURNAMENT
CAPTAIN ENGERER
WORLD FAMOUS POLICE DOG TRAINER
EAST NEW YORK OVAL,
CHURCH AND ROCKAWAY Avenues.
CANAL ST., BROOKLYN, N.Y.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH
2:30 P.M.

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS
MERRICK ROAD
Springs, Lynbrook
Long Island

Telephone Longview 2201

WE SPECIALIZE IN TRAINING ANIMALS WILD AND DOMESTIC

Good Calls

Preventing the Stake

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Protective and Trick Dogs for Sale

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DIRECTIONS TO THE GROUNDS
TROLLEY CARS
WILSON AVE., RUSH AND ROCKAWAY AVE., CHURCH AVE., NEW LION AVE., Direct to the Grounds.

R.T. New Line Line to Rockaway AVE., Union, then take Wilson Ave. Trolley direct to the Grounds.

ROADWAY Line to New Line Station, then take New Line Trolley to the Grounds.

AUTO ROUTE
Rockaway Avenue Direct to the Grounds.
Homage to the Police Dog.

It is a fallacious belief that the Police Dog is a brute of sullen viciousness and unlike antecedents. That this has gained general belief testifies to the gullibility of the uninitiated, but your true Police Dog expert knows this to be false. My worldwide experience as an animal trainer and a Police Dog trainer, leads me to make the assertion that though the wolf strain may be present, it is to a very great degree obsolete in this type of dog.

Going back to the origin of this species of dog, legend has it that a Shepherd Dog was crossed by a wolf many years before Caesar became Emperor of Rome. It is further asserted that during the Roman Era, the killing of a Shepherd Dog was punishable by a fine of many pieces of silver and this was brought about by the integrity, obedience, intelligence, courage, and protective measures afforded by these animals being maintained to the highest level; hence, the faithfulness of the Police Dog of today; but an animal, to be given the name of Police Dog, must have qualified through due examination and passed 100% before that name is conferred upon him.

I hope that the public at large will sooner or later realize that a Police Dog's training is designed for the purpose of protection for his Master and Family, and if people will not interfere with the animal when his owners are not present, accidents due to promiscuous petting will be avoided. The Police Dog is trained to obey commands.

I should be pleased to have you consult me relative to your Police Dog problems.

CAPTAIN E. ENGERER.

A BIT OF HISTORY

It is with great satisfaction that I have the privilege of presenting to the Florida public, Captain Engerer, world known Animal and Police Dog Trainer, and his Performing Police Dogs. As early as 1906 the undersigned was training Police Dogs; but the Performance of the Captain with the newer methods recently introduced by him surpass everything we formerly attempted. Captain Engerer's work was given credit by valuable contracts with Keith & Proctor's Vaudville Circus and with Spark's Circus. It is true that a reputation preceded him to America, as he was connected for years with the famous Hagenbeck Animal Training and Trapping in their quest for wild beasts in Central Africa and India. In traveling the European continent he acquired many decorations and trophies. Owing to an accident in performing his duty he decided to leave this dangerous work and set his heart on training domestic animals. And among these the work done in German Police Departments by the so-called Police Dogs appealed to him more than anything else. He produced, in short time, such marvelous training work that his name in connection with trained Police Dogs means nothing but the highest class of performance. So you realize why I feel so proud in bringing Captain Engerer to Florida for this winter season, and I hope that his efforts will meet with instant success.

The performance in this Program shows only the possibilities in actual life; Police Departments and Sheriff's offices are continually demanding the service of the Captain; many deeds of valor are attributed to his dogs—for instance: the saving of lost children and inebriate persons; the tracing of criminals and saving of drowning swimmers.

HENRY L. BAER
Proprietor of Palsade Kennels.
Delray Beach, Fl.

Engerer's Homage and Background of Working with Police Dogs
PROMOTIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR POLICE ACADEMY

WHAT A YOUNG POLICE DOG SHOULD KNOW: MISS ELSA DOUSSIN
of Brooklyn, with her class of thoroughbreds, which she trains at her kennels at Springfield Gardens, L. I. (P. & A.)

“LET’S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS NOW—CAMERA!”
Acting as director and camera man, this police dog shows off before his kennel mates at Laurelton, L. I., where hundreds of the intelligent canines are trained. (International)
A TRIBUTE SHOW IN HONOR OF GERMAN SHEPHERDS

PROGRAM

1. March - By Our Favorite
2. Piano Solo
   (a) Rustling of Spring - Miss Anna Weiss
   (b) Alice
3. Aerobatic Dance - Margaret Coughlin
4. A Professional Beggar
   (b) Mister Bass - O. Stolberg
5. The Sensational Dancing Doll - Agnes Coughlin
6. Songs - Mise Schwab
7. Song and Dance - Isabelle Bernis

PROGRAM

8. Zither and Piano Duet
   (a) Happy Hour - Miss Anna Weiss
   (b) Selection - Charles A. Weiss
9. Adego Dance - Agnes and Buddy Coughlin
10. The Dumb Corman Player Before the Court
    (Characters) - Players
    Dr. Range, Judge - Captain R. Engerer
    A. Muller, Clerk - Fred Engerer
    C. Hohenstein, Defendant - A. Wendel
    M. Wurstelmeier, Pianist - Betty Beane
11. A Philosopher - O. Stolberg
    (b) Some little Pug will find and get you some day.
12. Songs - Miss Schwab
13. Two of a Kind - Rex and Company
14. A Field Trial at Rollins - Captain R. Engerer
Requirements to Graduate Police Academy

In Captain Engerer’s training academy, located in Springfield Gardens, New York, German Shepherds were well-trained in a variety of skills before being able to graduate with a diploma.

Many of the German Shepherds that were trained in Captain Engerer’s academy continued on to work as police dogs.
Two German Shepherds that Engerer admired dearly were often on the forefront of his training academy ads, first in shows, and even participants of police raids. Engerer loved to brag about the loyalty these two dogs had for their master, and even mentioned that they were quite photogenic. The two dogs, Tutel and Queenie, both have unique stories and emphasize the importance of the use dogs in society.
Engerer took much pride in his elegant, athletic, and intelligent German Shepherd named Queenie. Queenie demonstrated many tricks that she had been trained in at a tournament in Laurelton, Long Island. In the picture, she is seen jumping onto a fire rescue net from a high altitude and even soaring through a ring of fire with the utmost of ease!
QUEENIE ON THE SEARCH FOR A KILLER!

At approximately 3:00 a.m. one morning, Captain Engerer received a call from the Nassau County Police for Queenie’s assistance in tracking down the killer of a fellow officer. Captain Engerer quickly rushed to the scene with Queenie, where she was able to pick up a scent. Unfortunately she lost it due to the fact that hundreds of people had walked over the grounds, which caused her to become overwhelmed as to whose scent was the killer’s. Later, Queenie did pick up a scent, but was only able to find an intoxicated man who fell on glass and cut himself.

Despite Queenie’s failure to find the killer, Engerer commented that German Shepherds should work more closely with the police, just like they do in Germany.
Although Engerer loved all of his dogs, he had a special place in his heart for his most favorited canine named Tutel. In 1924, Tutel won first prize: a gold medal in the high jumping contest staged for police dogs in White Plains. Tutel flew through the air at an astonishing height of 11 ¾ feet, beating all of the other 17 dogs in the show.

Tutel, similar to Queenie, had also assisted in criminal cases. His work was much appreciated when he was able to track down a thief at Mrs. Henry C Frick’s estate with just the scent of a box of matches. Tutel also did effective work in a jewel robbery case in Miami a few days prior to Mrs. Frick’s case.
To the left, an advertisement poster displays Tutel in a dog food commercial for Spratt’s Oval.

To the right, a page from the booklet given to prospectors for a show at the Palisade Kennel provides background information on Tutel, who is performing in the event.
On December 17, 1925, a large ship named the H.F. Alexander set sail from New York to Miami. One very special passenger aboard this ship was Tutel. Tutel was the first police dog to perform on an American stage during 1923. On this ship, Tutel was expected to perform some of his remarkable feats for the passengers.
To the left, is a famous photograph of Engerer and Tutel that is actually the front cover of the program for Captain Engerer’s Police Dog Tournament for Sunday, September 11th, 1927.

To the right is a newspaper article on Engerer’s view of the police dog’s psychology, as well as a paragraph expressing his affection towards Tutel, his most beloved police dog.
Although it had been over 10 years since Engerer lost his arm to a tiger, the animal trainer was ready to work with wild cats once more and decided to enter the International Wild Animal Training Contest in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1930.

At the contest, there were over twenty-one trainers from Canada, Belgium, Italy, Germany, America, England, Switzerland, and India. Engerer believed his biggest competition came from the trainers from Germany, for this was the country that bred some of the best animal trainers in the world and that had access to the best training programs.

When Engerer arrived in Cleveland, he trained with the twenty-one other animal trainers, aspiring to win and acquire the title of first place!
Considering the contest was full of experts in the field of animal training, the Committee wanted to make the competition as tough as possible.

The guidelines the Committee decided upon consisted of using all green, untamed animals with the understanding that the trainer would bring them under control and would either group them or perform one trick with each of them, in order to consider the work completed.

This was especially challenging to the animal trainers, who, under normal circumstances had time to treat the animals with respect and patience. However, under pressure, trainers had to be ruthless and strict in order to show the animals that they were the masters!

In addition to the lack of time that the trainers had with the animals, the way the animals were bred made a difference in how difficult it was to work with them. In Engerer’s words, “Nine out of ten times, I found the captive bred more cunning and charging than the others [jungle bred].”
Engerer won first prize in Cleveland, Ohio, at the International Animal Training Contest for the World's Championship in 1930!

Not only was he deemed the World's Greatest and Most Intrepid Cat Trainer, but a whole article dedicated to his victory was published in The Community Journal.
Captain Engerer's experiences were made into a cartoon poster depicting major milestones within his life.

The event the arrow is pointing to discusses his win in Cleveland, Ohio!
After Captain Engerer’s victory in Cleveland, he rekindled his passion for the circus and dabbled in the industry once more, despite his injury, which, unfortunately, would not be his last.

In the 1930s, Engerer established his own circus within his animal training academy called, “Captain Engerer’s Society Circus,” located on 233rd Street and Merrick Road, Long Island, New York.
Engerer expanded on his work with lions and canines and created a variety of acts for his audience, moving toward a more traditional vision of the circus.

He incorporated different types of dangerous stunts, adorable and funny animals dressed in costumes, and even the only performing lamb in the world. His circus was a hit and attracted people from all over!
SPECIAL SPRING OPENING

CAPT. ENGERER'S SOCIETY CIRCUS

MERRICK ROAD AT 724M STREET
ROSEDALE, LONG ISLAND

SUNDAY, May 12th, 1935, at 3:00 P.M.

PROGRAMME

1. "Mr. and Mrs. Polka-Dot"—Horseback Riding Dogs.
5. "King"—The World's Youngest Champion Horse Jumper.
8. "May and Mouse"—The World's Only Two Together Petting Lambs.
10. "Belle and Basset"—The Team High Jumper.
12. "Intermission"—

VEGETABLES

FOR DOGS

Per Your Dog's Health. Feed fresh leafy vegetables regularly. Vegetables now available in a variety of fresh baby varieties and new food has been added to the menu. This includes specimens of the fresh new vegetables now available and the rest for a small dog is recommended for one day per week.

ON SALE HERE

Capt. Engerer recommends

LITTLE VEGETABLE POWDER
AND TABLETS

for your dog's health.

FLYERS FOR
ENGERVER'S CIRCUS

CAPT. ENGERER'S ANIMAL TRAINING ACADEMY
MERRICK ROAD, COR. 233rd ST., LAURELTON, L. I.

PRESENTS

17 OUTSTANDING ANIMAL ACTS

THIS SUNDAY, AUG. 11th

And Every Sunday following until further notice, at 3:00 P. M.

INCLUDING

JIMMY
The Greatest Tight-Rope Walking Dog

MINNIE and MAY
The Only Trained Lambs in the World

AJAX — Famous Moving Picture Dog

A THRILLING LION ACT!

KING — The World's Champion High Jumper

BALBO — Undefeated High Diver

TRIXIE — Ace Criminal Dog

PRINCE — Pole Climbing Sensation

And Other Intellectual Champions in
Astonishing Trick and Stunt Work

Admission Free

RESERVED SEATS $1.00

THE ROSEDALE PRESS, 9-2898, Conduit Blvd.
PHOTOGRAPHS OF ENGERER PREPARING FOR HIS CIRCUS PERFORMANCE
On July 31st, 1935, four years before the start of World War II, Engerer decided to provide a free animal show to Jewish orphans. Considering Engerer was a Bavarian from Germany, he did not want any part of the anti-Semitic attitudes his home country was promoting. In fact, Engerer purposely held this event in order to impress upon his audiences he had nothing against the Jewish culture!
During the Great Depression, the economy of the United States was suffering immensely. In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order that created the Works Progress Administration (WPA), along with other federal assistance programs to help put unemployed Americans to work in return for temporary financial assistance.

Roosevelt’s WPA employed all different types of jobs, including careers in the creative arts profession. One of the projects that was funded in 1935, was the WPA circus, located in New York City, whose purpose was to bring jobs back to “big top performers” (who actually suffered more than any other members of show business), as well as to provide an entertaining show to the youth of America!
Most people seemed to have had a positive reaction to the W.P.A circus, according to the critics article located to the right. Some of the fans even mentioned they traveled far and wide to see the show, and that they were happy to see their tax money going to something worthwhile for the community.

To advertise the circus, certain flyers like the one to the left promoted the circus and its boastful acts. The circus's slogan was, “Bigger and Better than Ever!”
In addition to Engerer running his own circus, he participated in the W.P.A Federal Theatre Project’s Three Ring Circus with a number of other talented performers.

Captain Engerer performed with many other great names of the circus and stage business, such as Thornton, a famous magician and clown, and W.E. Ritchie, a renowned bicyclist.
To the left is a photograph of Engerer and a “sacred black elephant” named Japino, displayed to feature special characters within the W.P.A circus in Sunnyside, New York. Fortunately for Japino, he was rehired by the W.P.A after a group of children petitioned to President Roosevelt to forgive him for trying to runaway. Engerer was clawed by a lion several times, but had entirely recovered after spending some time in Queens General Hospital.

To the right is an article about the W.P.A and its newest addition to the show, Captain Engerer! Engerer exhibited two of his most prominent lions, “Leo” and “Peter,” whom he captured in Africa.
After many successful years of practically dominating the circus industry, Engerer still continued to work in the business during his later years.

Although Engerer continued to manage his circus and police academy, he branched out and set up private shows outside of his business, especially in shopping centers.

Engerer also contributed to other circus acts and animal causes, and even worked with other animals besides lions and police dogs.

Engerer contributed much of his time to animal training and wild life during his mid-50s, and even until his death. Dedication at its finest!
One of Engerer’s major contributions during his later years was setting up performances for the public at multiple shopping centers and variety shows, which held discounted or free tickets to aid in or promote awareness to certain causes.
To the left, Captain Engerer, who at the time was sixty-four, appeared at the Fort Myers Shopping Center on Palm Beach Blvd., Fort Meyers, Florida, to perform in a free show for the public.

To the right, Captain Engerer struggles but eventually succeeds in getting a lion to come down from his perch in another free show located in Bayshore Gardens, New Jersey.
Captain Engerer performed in the Markham Patrol Benefit Circus at the Canterbury Shopping Center located in Markham, Illinois. All of the proceeds collected from the carnival and circus went to a benefit fund for local policemen.

Engerer’s fans had high expectations for his circus act considering he had already performed at the shopping center seven months prior and brought in huge crowds and rave notices.

Engerer would not disappoint, for he had a lineup of acts, including his famous tricks with dogs and lions, for the public to be fully entertained once again.
In addition to Engerer participating in circus acts at variety shows and shopping centers in later life, he also accumulated many peculiar and interesting stories throughout his career.

These stories caught the attention of many people and ended up in numerous newspaper articles that described the shenanigans in which Captain Engerer would often become entangled.

To the right is a newspaper article from 1952 depicting a photograph of Captain Engerer helping to unload a 10-foot, 75-year-old alligator. This was quite a sight to see considering Engerer’s usual work with felines and dogs.
Although Engerer usually worked with lions and dogs separately, he was able to create an act that used both animals together—proof that cats and dogs could be friends.
Captain Engerer, while employed by Benson Brothers Circus, had the chance to nurse an extremely rare all-white albino lion club, which was probably the first one born in the southeast of America.
While Captain Engerer was in the midst of his circus performance on Jericho Turnpike, New Hyde Park, NY, one of his employees informed him that his 3-year-old lion, Rex, had escaped his cage and was sitting on the tailgate of a truck outside.

After numerous failed attempts to try to lure Rex back into his cage, Captain Engerer came to the conclusion that he had to improvise, so he threw a net over the back of the truck to keep the lion situated, and he drove for half a mile to New Hyde Park’s firehouse to temporarily keep the lion out of trouble while he thought of a solution.

Captain Engerer decided to go to a local meat market and buy a 4-pound sirloin steak, with which he was able to entice the lion to go back into his cage!
Engerer brings a scare to local residents in Lakewood

- Captain Engerer arrived a week early to set up for a circus performance in Lakewood, Colorado, during his circus tour.
- Considering none of the local hotels or motels had facilities for Engerer’s lions, he was forced to place them in steel cages in a vacant lot, hoping not to disturb any of the residents.
- Little did he know that none of the residents had been aware of his arrival and that they became very concerned when they heard an “awful roar” or the sight of the lions in the lot.
- At night, the police were called, who located Engerer in his motel room and ordered him to move his lions.
- The charge? “Their bellows constituted violation of the city’s anti-noise ordinance.”

Here’s one-sixth the noise that threw a neighborhood into a tizzy early Wednesday. Samba is a male African lion, he weighs 700 pounds, and he bellows like a foghorn in an echo chamber.
Despite Engerer’s expertise when working with animals, throughout his career and especially towards its completion, there were numerous incidents where his lions were uncontrollable and attacked or even killed people!

Engerer, himself, had suffered from severe lion maulings in which many parts of his body were injured.

Even though Engerer encountered multiple lion attacks (most notably the loss of his arm in 1939) he still continued working in the circus and was not deterred from training the ferocious felines.

While employed by the WPA circus, Engerer was clawed by two lions Leo and Peter during his performance. Luckily, Engerer’s son, Ernest Jr., was able to save his father and beat the two lions off with a club!
In 1945, Engerer put on a show at the Victory Circus, for the benefit of the Fourth Regiment State Guard, at the Jamaica Armory located on 168th Street and 93rd Avenue, Jamaica, Queens.

During one of Engerer’s acts, his lion Sheba spontaneously lunged at him, sweeping her claws across his forehead and arm.

Although Sheba inflicted scratches and puncture wounds to Engerer’s body, the Captain referred to his wounds as “slight” and still insisted on participating in the three scheduled performances at the armory.
In 1962, Engerer was driving through St. Charles, Illinois to perform at a shopping center in the Great American Shows act. However, the driver, Addie Estelle Connell, lost control and collided with a truck, overturning both their vehicles as well as the cages which contained two young lions.

A passerby named Thomas Benson, who tried to help corral the lions, and Captain Engerer were bitten and clawed while attempting to lure the lions back into their cages.

Unfortunately for the two lions, Deputy Sheriff Henry Swanson decided to shoot both of them in order to prevent any further injuries.
Although Engerer had a very demanding and stressful life while working with animals, he still managed to have time to have a family.

Engerer had two children, Ernest O. and Louise Engerer.

Louise Engerer, born on October 22, 1921, was Engerer’s second child. She occasionally participated in dog and pony acts, but not to the extent of her brother, Ernest.

Ernest O. Engerer, born on September 26, 1920, was Captain Engerer’s first born. During Ernest’s childhood, he participated in many of his father’s acts and learned to train dogs. In time, he worked his way up to eventually taming large cats just like his father. By 1941, while overseas in Italy during WWII, Ernest trained dogs for the U.S. Army. After he returned home from his service, he decided to pursue a career as a letter carrier and remained one until the early 1990s.
Photographs of Ernest O. Engerer (Captain Engerer’s Son)
*Just a year before Engerer had planned to retire from the circus business, he decided to perform at a small amusement park called The Enchanted Village, just north of Winston-Salem North Carolina.

*On the second day of his scheduled weekend performance, Captain Engerer entered the ring with confidence as he held a long pole, ready to poke and prod a 500 pound lion named Monte, whom he owned for over 12 years.

*Unfortunately for Engerer, Monte had decided to rebel from Engerer’s commands....
On July 11, 1964, Captain Engerer spent his last day of life performing the profession he loved.

Captain Engerer confidently stepped into the ring at 6:45 P.M, and ordered the command to the beast Monte, “Seat!” which was supposed to be a cue to leap onto a perch.

However, feeling rebellious, Monte disobeyed Engerer’s command and instead leaped onto him and shook him violently, seizing his jugular vein.

Monte mangled the old trainer for 45 minutes before the police arrived with enough firepower to kill the lion.

It took over three volleys from a shotgun and a submachinegun to slay the raging beast.
A Lion Leaps on Trainer And Kills Him in Carolina

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C., July 11 (UPI) — A lion leaped on his trainer before a crowd of children today, killed him and mauled his body until the police ridied the cat with machine guns.

About 25 persons watching the act in a small amusement park ran screaming when the 500-pound lion, called Monte, leaped on Capt. Ernest E. Engerer, his one-armed, 70-year-old trainer.

Capt. Engerer had prodded the lion with a pole when it refused to obey a command and it went at him with one leap and seized his jugular vein, according to his assistant, Edgar Gresham.

"It went absolutely wild, leaping around the cage, then going back to shake the body again."

VICTOR HAD PERFORMED ON SUNCOAST

Retirement Was So Near For Elderly Lion Tamer

WINSTONSLEAM, N.C. (UPI) — Once upon a time, Capt. Ernest Engerer, elder of 60 training cats, had ruled the center ring, thrilling audiences from Europe to America.

That was in the heyday of the big top, when Eugenioenguer was a household name. The circus was losing money, but the big cats continued to bring in the new.

Capt. Engerer was wanted all over Europe by big game hunters. He had so many big cats in his cages that he could afford to lose a few.

THE OLD MAN missed the heat with the pole and buried the "leash." — The lion's cue to jump out of the cage.

Instead, the lion leaped on Capt. Engerer. "The cat went at him with one leap and killed him with his jugular vein," said Edgar Gresham, Engerer's elderly assistant.

THE LION mangled the old trainer for 9 minutes before police arrived and shot the beast to kill it. It took three other men to get the animal and a submachine gun to stop the raging beast.
At 70 years of age, Captain Engerer had finally been conquered by the beasts he had been taming all of his life.

His immediate cause of death was documented as a broken neck and his antecedent cause was a blow from a lion.

Engerer’s funeral procession was held at The Wall Funeral Home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

On July 16, 1964, Engerer was buried at the Woodland Cemetery in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
All of the information that has contributed to this online exhibit can be found in the Engerer Family Papers (Box 1) located in the Special Collections Department at Hofstra University.
The End