

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

This student research project was generously funded by the Robert D.L. Gardiner Foundation and uses Long Island Studies Institute collections as the basis for the project.

By: Jillian Pallone



THE EARLY YEARS OF ERNEST ENGERER



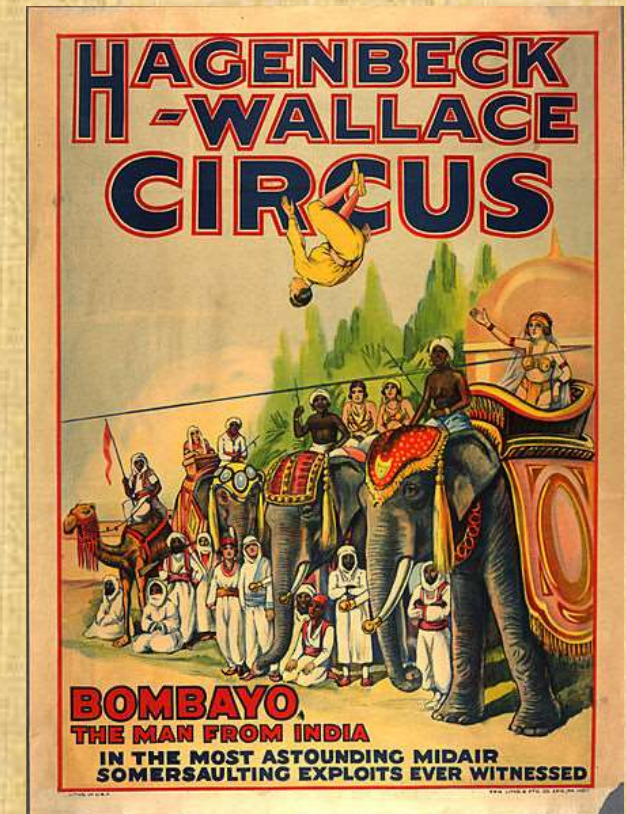
Captain Ernest Engerer was born on August 9, 1893, in Königsberg (Bavaria), Germany. His father Oscar, who also had experience with animals, directed Ernest at a very early age to practice the art of training animals. Ernest even received baby lion cubs as pets at the wee age of *four* years old!



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.



Ernest's Home Town



Hagenbeck Circus School



MILITARY SERVICE

🦁 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.



Capt. Ernest Engerer

LIFE IN AMERICA AND ANIMAL TRAINING



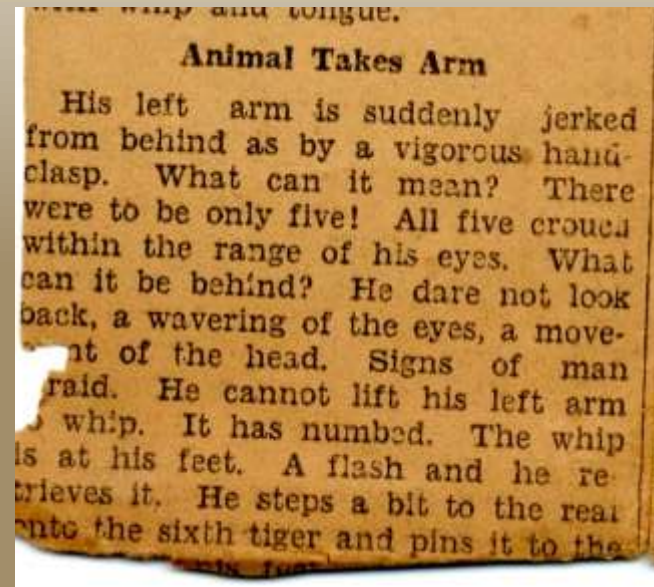
After immigrating to New York from Germany at the age of 26, Engerer settled in Bellerose, Long Island. During the later half of the 1910's, he and his brother William worked with animals once again. Although his brother would eventually look for another job, Engerer continued to work with wildlife and 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!



But It'll Be Good, Says Capt. Ernest Engerer, Who Has a Zoo at His Home in Bellerose

By HARRY KAZAKOWITZ

Captain Ernest Engerer, wild animal trainer, will delight visitors at the 1939 World's Fair with methods of high degree precision and courage to make lions, tigers, pumas and other fierce denizens of darkest Africa behave like kitchen kittens.

His power to train the vicious, animal training contest held in Toledo, Ohio, in 1930, will seem doubly wondrous to watchers when they realize that the slight-built, five-foot tall trainer has but one arm.

It was ten years ago, while training lions in preparation for a circus act, that Captain Engerer suffered the mishap which cost him one arm. Enclosed in a cage with five lions, he was unaware of a sixth lion that forced its way into the chute leading into the enclosure. Occupied with the animals before him, he was suddenly pounced upon from behind, knocked unconscious, and his left arm severed before aid could arrive.

Taught Him Caution

Captain Engerer, however, has never looked upon his accident as a misfortune. "That little mishap has instilled in me perfect alertness and the ever use of caution," he says.

"Because of my slight impairment I have developed the use of my right arm and hand to such an extent that is doubly powerful and consequently I suffer no handicap."

"Then, too, I have learned that you can never trust a lion. He is a lust killer and is always looking for that chance to destroy. You can train a lion but you can never tame him. Extreme caution is ever necessary in dealing with him."

POLICE DOG ACADEMY

TRAINING
—
BOARDING

Safe Company

After a Fugitive

Capt. Engerer
—
DOGS
AT STUD
—
PUPPIES

Protecting
the Baby

Fetching
the Object

TRAINING DAILY
Exhibitions Saturdays and Sundays
CAPT. ENGERER'S
POLICE DOG TRAINING ACADEMY
MERRICK ROAD
(Opp. LAURELTON GOLF CLUB)
Tel. Laurelton 2981
SPRINGFIELD GARDENS L. I.



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.

TRAINED DOGS AND PUPPIES FOR SALE TELEPHONE CONNECTION BOARDING AND TRAINING

CAPT. ENGERER'S
"WORLD'S LARGEST"
POLICE DOG
TRAINING ACADEMY
DOGS AT STUD
MERRICK ROAD, OPP. LAURELTON GOLF CLUB

SPRINGFIELD GARDENS, L. I., July 30, 1922

Bill of sale.

German Police Dog known as Jackson van Altrheim \$ 275.00

Received Payment

Minnie Mhl

DOGS TAKEN IN BOARD TRAINED DOGS AND PUPPIES FOR SALE DOGS AT STUD

Captain Engerer's Police Dog Training Academy

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SATISFACTORY WORK

OWNER AND TRAINER OF TUTEL THE CANINE SLEUTH THE ONLY POLICE DOG VAUDEVILLE PERFORMER

ELMONT ROAD Bet. Central Ave. and Hempstead Blvd. **ELMONT, L. I.**

DIRECTIONS—Merrick Road as far as Twin Ponds, turn to your left, or Hempstead Boulevard to end of Belmont Race Track and turn to your right. Use Hempstead Trolley to stop 12 and turn to your right.

YOUNGEST POLICE DOG TRAINER

NEW YORK... THE LITTLE LONG ISLAND TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD GARDENS BOASTS OF NUMBERING AMONG ITS RESIDENTS THE YOUNGEST TRAINER OF POLICE DOGS IN THE WORLD. HE IS ERNEST ENGERER, FOUR YEARS OLD WHO SINCE HE WAS ABLE TO TODDLE ABOUT HAS MINGLED WITH THE SEVERAL HUNDRED DOGS THAT ARE BEING TRAINED AT HIS FATHER'S KENNELS ON THE MERRICK ROAD, LAURELTON, LONG ISLAND. NOW ERNEST KNOWS ALL THE DOGS BY NAME AND IS ABLE TO COMMAND THEM AS HE WILL AND AS ASSUREDLY AS DOES HIS FATHER.

EXCLUSIVE.

1-14-26



CAPTAIN ERNEST ENGERER

Winner of the Animal Training Championship and Trophies

OUTSTANDING WINNINGS

Gold Medal for Champion High Jumpers at National Jumping Contest, July 18th, 1924.

Grand Prize for Best Trained Police Dogs at International Dog Training Tournament, May 19th and 17th, 1928, at Polo Grounds, New York.

Grand Prize for Best Trained Police Dogs at Pet Show, November 18th to 22nd, 1930, Madison Sq. Garden, New York.

Grand Prize for the Best Trained Group of Animals at Pet Show, November 17th to 21st, 1931, Madison Square Garden, New York.

Grand Prize for the Best Trained Group of Animals at Pet Show, November 21st to 29th, 1932, Madison Sq. Garden, New York.

EVENTS

TUFTEL, the human wonder dog who has no competition
TYRASS, the famous trick dog
ARRY, the European Marvel
JOCHEN, high jumper and prize winner of U. S. and Germany
JLSE, the Fearless Fire Dog
Miss Clara Stone, formerly with TEXAS QUINN, with JASH, the Dancing Dog
KIDNAPPING HOLD UP ROBBERY
THAILING SCENES
Police Protection and the Marvelous Stunts of Intellectual Champions

Police Dog Tournament

CAPTAIN ENGERER,
WORLD FAMOUS POLICE DOG TRAINER

EAST NEW YORK OVAL
CHURCH AND ROCKAWAY AVENUES,
CANARSIE BROOKLYN, N. Y.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH
2:30 P. M.

TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS

MERRICK ROAD
Springfield Gardens,
Long Island

Telephone LAureton 2981

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,

DIRECTIONS TO THE GROUNDS

TROLLEY CARS Wilson Ave., Ralph and Rockaway Ave., Church Ave., New Lots Ave., Direct to the Grounds

I. R. T. New Lots Line to Rockaway Ave., Station, then take Wilson Ave. Trolley direct to the Grounds. Broadway Line to New Lots Station, then take New Lots Trolley to the Grounds.

AUTO ROUTE Rockaway Avenue Direct to the Grounds.

WE SPECIALIZE IN TRAINING ANIMALS WILD AND DOMESTIC



GOOD PALS



Safe Company



Protecting the Baby



ROLLING THE BARREL



A DISTURBED TEA PARTY

TRAINED COMPANION.
PROTECTIVE AND TRICK
DOGS FOR SALE
—
BOARDING
—
DOGS AT STUD



TWO ARTISTS



COMING DOWN



AT PRAYER

PUPPIES FOR SALE
—
TRAINING DAILY



12-FOOT JUMP



CONQUERED THE FUGITIVE



After a Fugitive



REAL CONTENTED

Winner of Animal Training
Championship and Trophies!

Invitation to German Sheppard Tournament!

Flyer promoting the academy.

(Epigram by Capt. Engerer.)

Homage to the Police Dog.

IT is a fallacious belief that the Police Dog is a brute of sullen viciousness and warlike antecedents. That this has gained general belief testifies to the gullibility of the unitate, but your true Police Dog expert knows this to be false. My world-wide 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 that the integrity, obedience, intelligence, courage and protective measures afforded by these animals be 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 or 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.

ENGERER'S HOMAGE AND BACKGROUND OF WORKING WITH POLICE DOGS

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 1905 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 & Proctors Vaudeville Circuits and with Sparks 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 finding of lost children and inebriate persons; the trailing of criminals and saving of drowning swimmers.

HENRI L. BAER
Proprietor of Palisade Kennels,
Delray Beach, Fla.



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

Long Island Shepherd Dog Club
Incorporated



MONDAY EVE., DECEMBER 31, 1928

PROGRAM

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

PROGRAM

8. Zither and Piano Duet { Miss Anna Weiss
Charles A. Weiss
(a) Happy Hour (b) Selection
9. Adegio Dance Agnes and Buddy Coughlin
10. The Dumb Cornet Player Before the Court.
CHARACTERS PLAYERS
Dr. Runge, Judge - Captain E. Engerer
A. Muller, Clerk - - Fred Engerer
C. Huhnbein, Defendant - A. Wendel
M. Wurstelmeier, Plaintiff - Betty Bean
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 E. Engerer

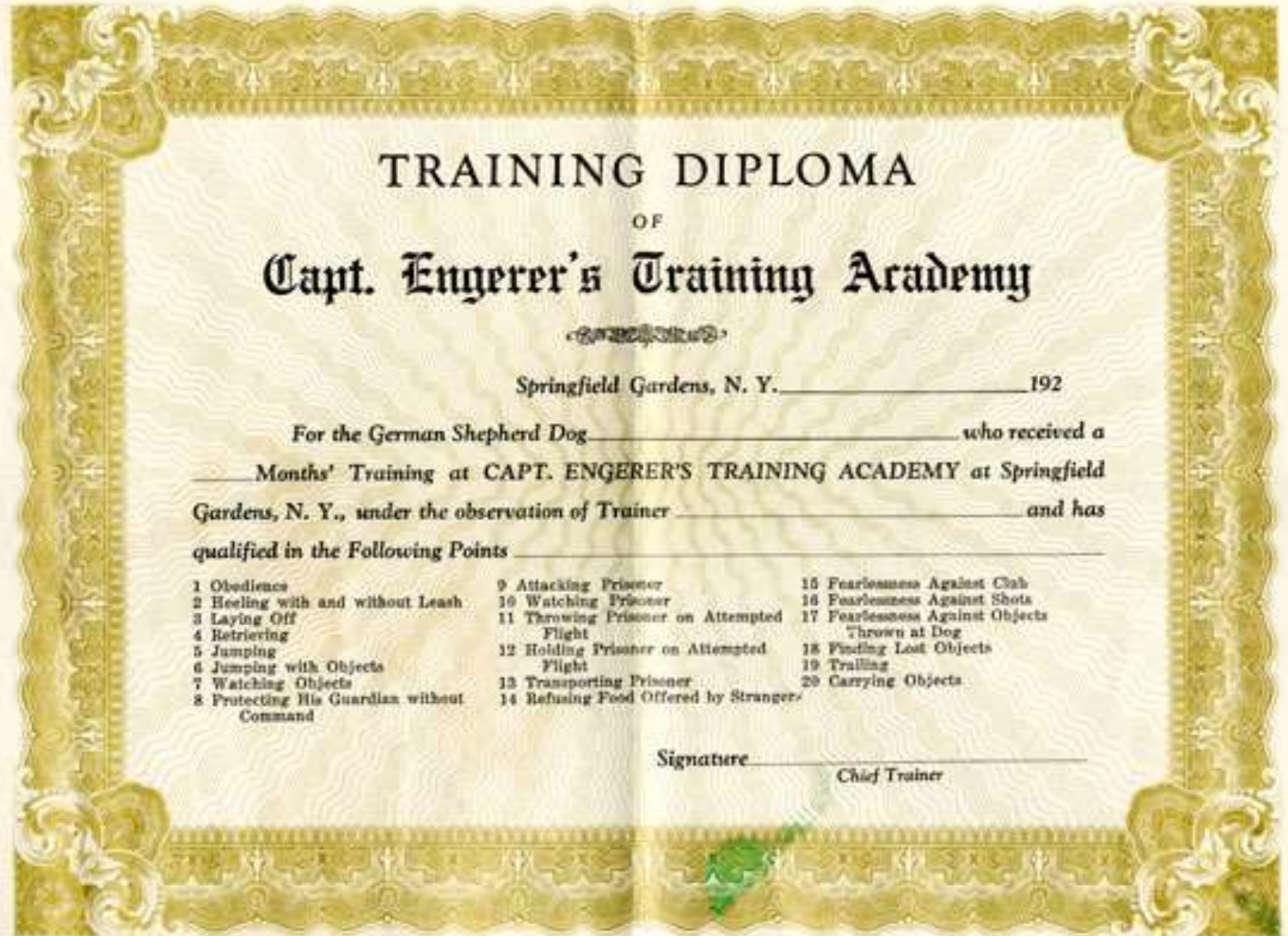
Requirements to Graduate Police Academy



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.



TUTEL AND QUEENIE IN ACTION!



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.

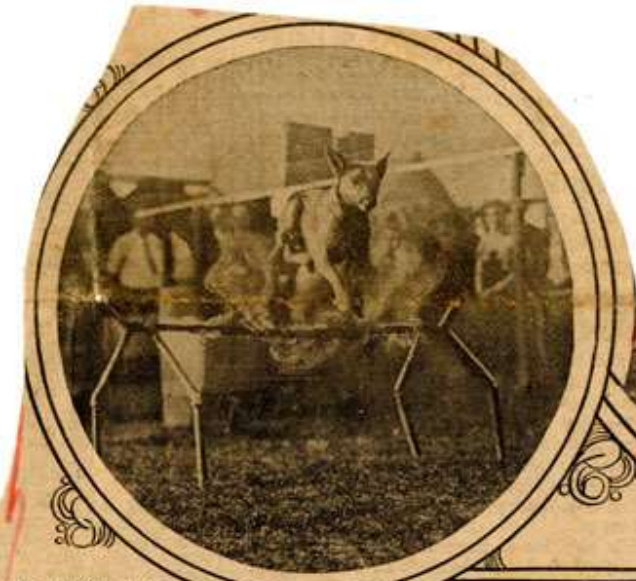




QUEENIE



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 with the utmost of ease!



PLAYFUL DOG—
And here's an example of Queen's playfulness—jumping through a ring of fire and smoke. That's not all Queen can do, either. Look below.
(International Newsweek)



HERE GOES—INTO THE FIRE NET!—Training club dogs and police dogs showed off all their tricks in tournament at Laurelton, L. I. Here's Queen taking keen delight in jumping into the fire rescue net.

1930

(International Newsweek)

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.

Engerer's Dog, 'Queenie' Called To Aid Police in Killer Search

When Nassau County police were called upon, early Wednesday morning, to solve the murder of a fellow officer, Fred Hirsch, one of the first activities of the group was to call Captain Ernst Engerer of Laurelton, police dog breeder, who placed at their disposal, the services of "Queenie," one of the best trailing dogs in this part of the country.

Captain Engerer received his call for assistance at 3:30 o'clock, Wednesday morning, and at 4 o'clock was at the scene of the murder with Queenie.

Some difficulties arose, however, which prevented Queenie from doing what it was expected she would do. While she picked up a scent at the actual scene of the shooting, she lost it again a short distance away.

Not because, however, Queenie isn't a good trailer, because we said before, she's the best in the business, but because of the fact that some 300 people were in the vicinity, walking over what may have been a trail and so mangled the "scent clues" that Queenie just couldn't produce.

At about 5 o'clock Wednesday morning, the county police were informed that a large quantity of blood was discovered on a street in front of the Malverne Post Office.

Captain Engerer was then in-

structed to bring Queenie to Malverne when she picked up the scent, and brought detectives to a house, a long distance away in a few minutes.

Instead of finding the murderer there, however, they found an 80 year old man, who, intoxicated fell into some glass and cut himself severely, accounting for the blood.

Captain Engerer is of the opinion that if police in this country worked along the same lines as the police of Germany do, the dogs would prove to be of greater advantage. He points out, for instance, that when a murder is committed in Germany, the dogs are put on the trail first. If, after a short time the dogs do not produce the culprit, the detectives then get to work with little time lost.

Here the detectives get on the job first, leaving the dog trailing to go until all clues are picked up. This puts dogs at a serious disadvantage, Captain Engerer said.

APEX RUG & CARPET CLEANING CO.

Cleaners of Fine Oriental and
Domestic Rugs
Fireproof Storage
Insurance Protection

122-16 Edmunson St., St. Albans
Tel. Laurelton 8-7457





TUTEL THE SUPER DOG!



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 $11 \frac{3}{4}$ 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.



PUTTING ON DOG. That's what they're doing to-morrow at the Polo Grounds, and Tutel, famous police dog, is shown above testing his jumping powers for the big event. Young Master Engerer is Tutel's boss. There will be whippet racing, sheep herding and other contests to amuse those who like canines. (Photo Graphic.)

Tutel testing jumping powers for Polo Grounds contest.



Captain Engerer and Tutel

Verein für deutsche Schäferhunde (SV.)
Sitz in München, EV. (im Kartell u. PVZ.)
Über 20.000 Mitglieder, 222 Ortsgruppen.
Allein anerkanntes und maßgebendes Zuchtorgan der Rasse!

Über 100.000 Hunde und 10.000 Zuchtstämme abgefragt.
Eigene Wochenzeitung: (Alle 14 Tage ein starkes Blatt.)
Anschreiben und an die Hauptgeschäftsstelle des
SV.-Gründer (H. Beyer) zu richten.
Zustellungspreis: M. 32.25, Einzugsgeld: M. 5.—.

Der deutsche Schäferhund als Polizeihund.
Bewachen eines Gegenstandes.
Reihe II. Nr. 11.

*Tutel was
imported from this
Kennel*



Alive and Alert!

**That's the Way you
want your Dog to be**

And that's the way he will be if you feed him SPRATT'S OVALS. They contain every ingredient necessary to the canine constitution. Energizing! Stamina-building! Recommended by veterinarians and dog fanciers everywhere.

And as a change try . . . FIBO . . . a wholesome meat and wheat food in granulated form! Look for the name "SPRATT'S" on the package before you buy. At Grocery, Seed, Feed and Drug Stores. And at Pet Shops.

FREE!

Write for Spratt's 50 page book on the care and feeding of Dogs.

SPRATT'S
Patent Ltd.
Newark, N. J.



**Tutel's
Fame
Grows!**



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.

**THE PALISADE KENNELS
PRESENT
CAPTAIN ENGERER
AND HIS PERFORMING POLICE DOGS
FEATURING**

TUETEL—The canine sleuth. America's only Police Dog Vaudeville Performer. Extraordinary Exhibit of the Canine with the Human Brain. TUETEL has never been beaten in any official Police Dog trial and won highest score at the International Police Dog Tournament, May 15-16, 1926, at the Polo Grounds of New York City, and was presented with a Silver Cup by the Commander of the 104th Field Artillery, N. Y. City, November, 1924, at which exhibit TUETEL won the highest reward given to the animal showing the most intelligence. TUETEL, incidentally, has never been beaten in any trials. Recently he was selected as the first animal to perform in Fox's Movietone and his work was shown in the Roxie Theatre, New York. TUETEL is the only Police dog that has ever challenged Rin Tin Tin and made him take a back seat.

TYRASS—The Famous Trick Dog. A worthy side-kick to Tuetel, known for his fearlessness in horse-back riding and nerve test.

ILSE—The Fearless Fire Dog.

And several other Trained Police Dogs of repute.

KING—The Trick Pony.

**CAPTAIN ENGERER'S POLICE DOG TRAINING
ACADEMY**

**Daily Performance at 3 P. M. at
Winter Headquarters, North Dixie, on the Grounds of the
Palisade Kennels**

DELRAY BEACH, — — — FLORIDA.

ALL ABOARD THE H.F. ALEXANDER

(PETS ARE WELCOMED TOO)



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.

PASSENGERS TO SEE POLICE DOG PERFORM

One of the most distinguished passengers aboard the super-ship this trip, perhaps, is Teutel, the canine sleuth.

Teutel is a very fine German police dog. He was the first performing police dog to appear on the American stage. That was in 1923 when he played the part of a silent detective in a legitimate drama. He has other claims to distinction, too, but before going into them let it be said that Teutel will perform for the passengers of the super-ship in the enclosed promenade tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock, his owner, Captain Ernest Engerer, having agreed to present the dog in an exhibition of some of his remarkable feats.

A DOG
is a man's best friend.



ENGERER AND TUTEL



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.

Animal Psychology
"I have studied for my work almost a lifetime and yet each day I learn something new. Each day I try new ways to get results. I always like to experiment. Animal psychology is a study! What does the owner of a police dog know about his dog? Many know nothing. They think that the shepherd dog is a wolf but let me tell you that this wolf strain is to a very large degree obsolete in the dog.
"Train a police dog in the wrong manner and he is spoiled. Favor a child too well and he is spoiled. Wrong training does it. The mind of the police dog is quick as a trigger. My tongue is my whip. The dog learns to understand me phonetically. I believe that people are wrong when they say that dogs understand our language. They understand sounds and learn to associate them with certain actions.
The trainer who resorts to whipping is a poor trainer. The dog remembers a wrong for a very long time. He may cower and shy in his master's presence but there may come a time when that dog will turn about to do him injury.

Police Used Dog
"Tutel, now there was a dog! A long life and a full life it lived before it died at the age of ten. I was considered the best of trained dogs. That big gold medallion over there and those blue ribbons all belonged to Tutel. The New York police very frequently called upon the dog for special sleuthing. In 1923 two inmates of an asylum had escaped. The dog found them in a swamp land.

THE INTERNATIONAL WILD ANIMAL TRAINING CONTEST

- ❖ 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!

course, my first interest was how many Trainers were there and who they were, as I figured by learning their names I would know more or less their tactics of training and it would assist me a great deal in my own work. After being introduced I found that there were twenty one trainers representing the following countries: Canada, Belgium, Italy, Germany, America, England, Switzerland and India. I realized that I could expect the most competition from Germany, as this is the country which educates the majority of Animal Trainers, and therefore I aimed to learn more about these trainers and their reputations, and what I was able to find out was not so very encouraging, as it meant quick, skillful and daring work in order to beat them to it.



RULES, GUIDELINES, & COMPETITION!

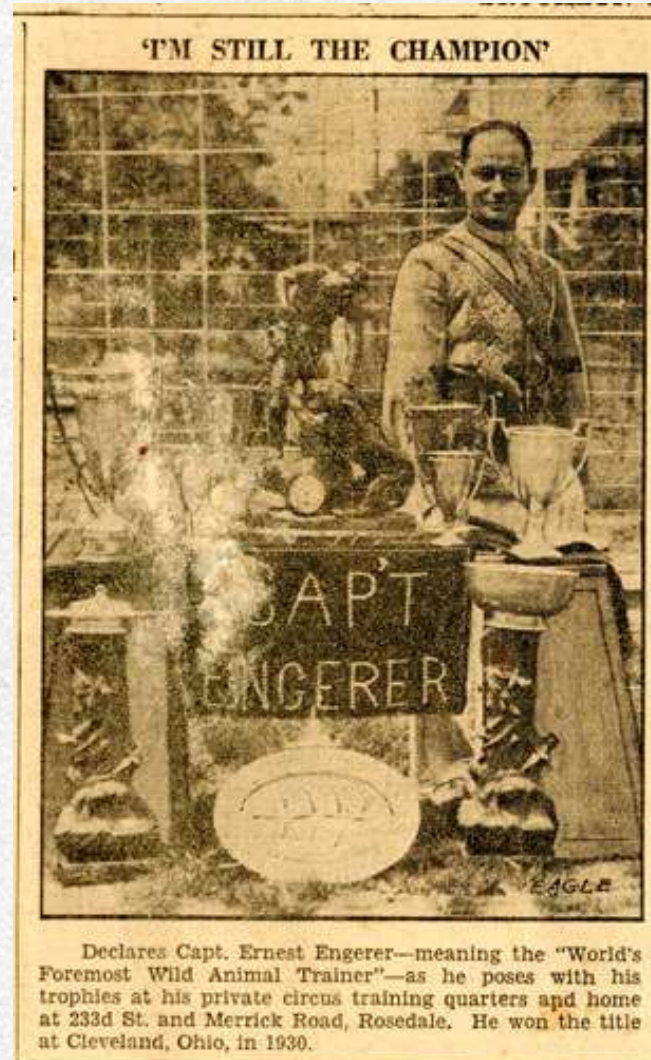
- ✓ Considering the contest was full of experts in the field of animal training, the Committee wanted to make the competition as tough as possible.
- ✓ The guidelines the Committee decided upon consisted of using all green, untamed animals with the understanding that the trainer would bring them under 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]."

meant quick, skillful and daring work in order to beat them to it. So that the contest may not be any too easy to win, the Committee decided to have all green, untamed Animals, with the understanding that the Trainer bring them under absolute control and group them or perform one trick with each in order to consider the work completed. Under ordinary circumstances we learn to know and study the Animal by being as much as possible with them, trying to win their confidence and affection so when training begins, danger is somewhat eliminated. This was different at this Contest, as we were unknown to the beasts, and therefore were their enemies right from the start, and it required absolute fearlessness, cold blood, quick concentration and great skill to show them who was their Master and to be sure to get out of the cage unhurt when the day's work was over. Now there is a lot of difference between a jungle bred and a captive bred animal, as nine out of ten I found the captive bred more cunning and charging than the others.

ENGERER WINS!

1st Engerer won first prize in Cleveland, Ohio, at the International Animal Training Contest for the World's Championship in 1930!

1st 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.



Among Wild Beasts

By Capt. ERNEST ENGERER

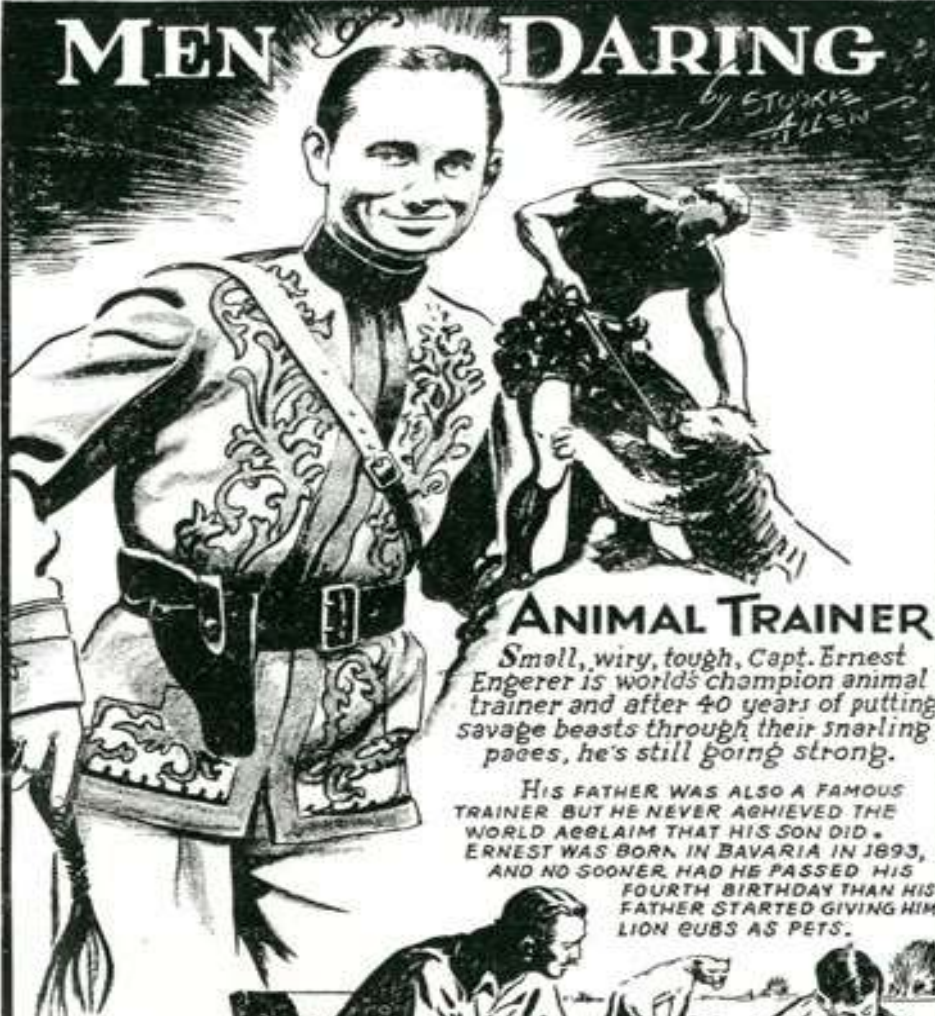
World's Greatest and Most
Intrepid Cat Trainer

Takes Championship

Last May, in Cleveland, Ohio, Engerer returned to jungle beasts after 12 years of training domestics. He was generally considered the world's best trainer of wild or domestic animals but he wished official recognition. The International Wild Animal Training Championship at Cleveland was his chance. Contestants from India, Canada, Germany, Italy, Belgium, England and the States, 21 of them, met to challenge his unofficial supremacy. Each trainer was required to subdue unbroken animals and to train them to perform one trick, all in the shortest possible time. Captain Engerer chose lions. The award was made to Engerer.

MEN OF DARING


by STUCKEY ALLEN



ANIMAL TRAINER

Small, wiry, tough, Capt. Ernest Engerer is world's champion animal trainer and after 40 years of putting savage beasts through their snarling paces, he's still going strong.

HIS FATHER WAS ALSO A FAMOUS TRAINER BUT HE NEVER ACHIEVED THE WORLD ACCLAIM THAT HIS SON DID. ERNEST WAS BORN IN BAVARIA IN 1893, AND NO SOONER HAD HE PASSED HIS FOURTH BIRTHDAY THAN HIS FATHER STARTED GIVING HIM LION CUBS AS PETS.



HE WAS 16 WHEN HE GRADUATED FROM THE HAGENBECK CIRCUS SCHOOL IN HAMBURG, AND HIS FIRST BIG JOB WAS TO ROUND UP WILD ANIMALS FOR THE HAGENBECK ZOO.



A PERIOD OF MILITARY SERVICE INTERRUPTED HIS LION-TAMING FOR A WHILE, AND FINDING HOME SERVICE TOO EASY GOING, HE VOLUNTEERED, IN 1910, FOR THE GERMAN SOUTHWEST AFRICAN CAMPAIGN. ERNEST MADE HIS MARK IN BRUSH CAMPAIGNING AND HAND TO HAND FIGHTING; AND BY THE TIME THE REBELLION WAS PUT DOWN, HE WAS A FULL-FLEDGED CAPTAIN OF HUSSARS.

AFTER THAT HE CAME TO AMERICA WHERE HIS FAME GREW BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS. THERE WAS NO APPARENT LIMIT TO HIS DARING NOR TO HIS ABILITY TO CONTROL HIS 'CATS'.

HE LOST AN ARM WHEN, PUTTING 5 LIONS THROUGH THEIR PAGES, HE DID NOT REALIZE THAT A SIXTH HAD CREEPT IN THROUGH AN OPEN SHUTE. BEFORE HIS HELPERS COULD RUSH TO HIS AID, THE BEAST JUMPED FROM BEHIND, AND KNOCKED HIM UNCONSCIOUS. HIS ARM WAS LITERALLY TORN FROM HIS SHOULDER. THE CAPTAIN THEN BEGAN TO TRAIN POLICE DOGS AND WON MANY RIBBONS. HIS PUPILS WERE IN GREAT DEMAND WITH THE N.Y. CITY POLICE.



TURNING BACK TO HIS FIRST LOVE CAPT. ENGERER WON IN CLEVELAND IN 1930, THE TROPHY THAT MADE HIM A CHAMPION. EACH CONTESTANT WAS REQUIRED TO TAME AN UNBROKEN BEAST AND TEACH HIM ONE TRICK. ENGERER'S TIME FOR THE FEAT HAS NEVER BEEN BEATEN.





HE PLANS TO DEFEND HIS CHAMPIONSHIP, AT NEW YORK'S WORLD'S FAIR, IN 1939.

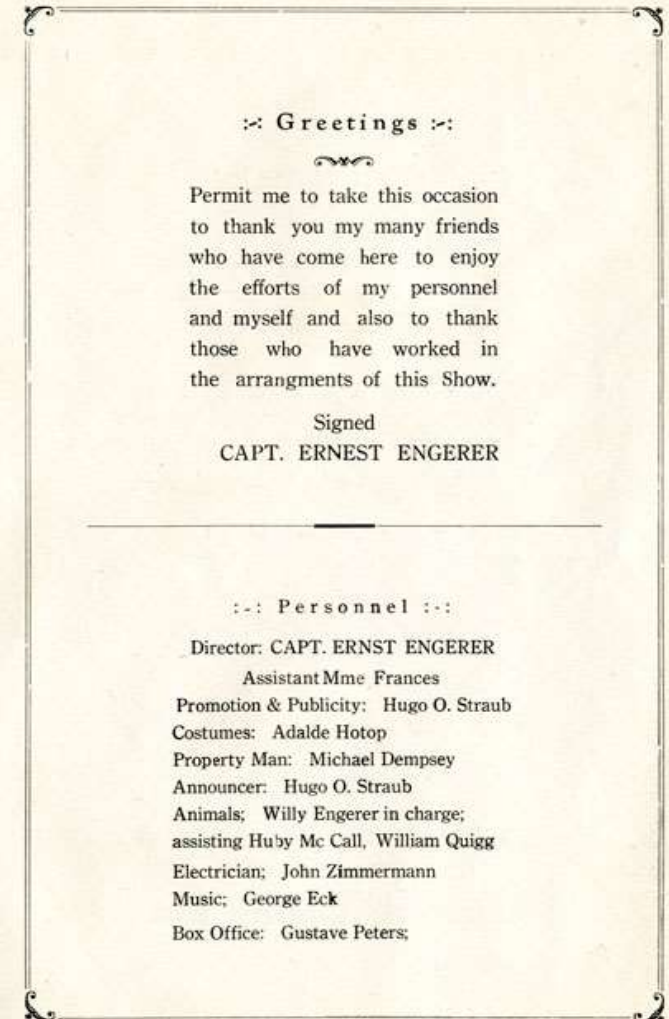
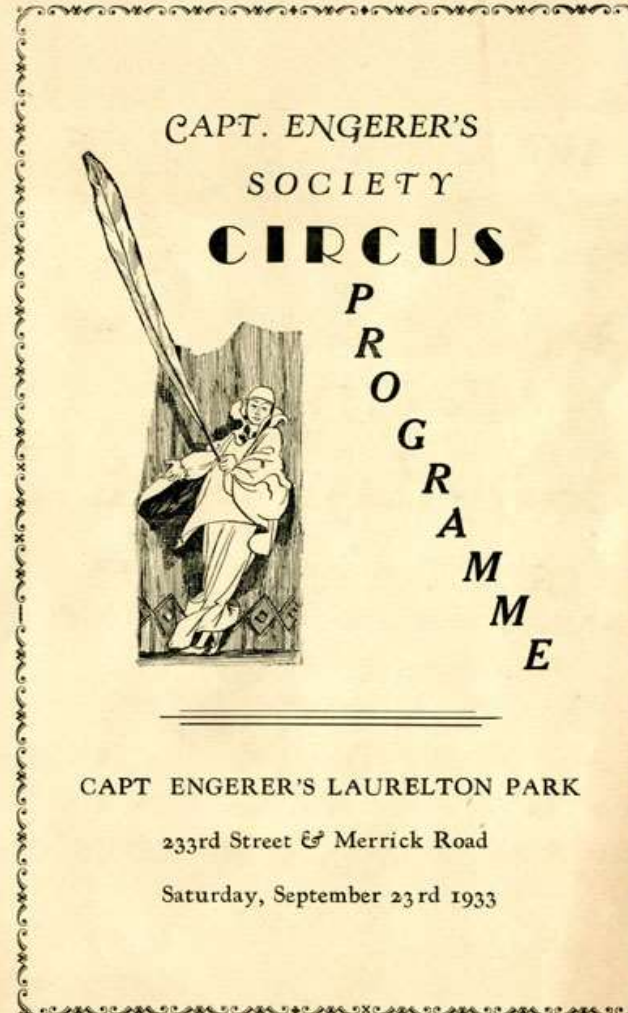
- Captain Engerer's experiences were made into a cartoon poster depicting major milestones within his life.
- The event the arrow is pointing to discusses his win in Cleveland, Ohio!



CAPTAIN ENGERER'S COMEBACK IN THE CIRCUS

 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.



THE LINEUP



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!

PROGRAMME



"Arrangement subject to change"

1. The riding Polandos
2. Horseback riding Football Player
3. Arthur and Girlie (acrobats)
4. Clown dog
5. King the Pony with the human mind
6. Gaston (Direct from Barnum and Bailey)
7. Ralph The famous fire jumper
8. May and Prince. The only performing Lamb
9. Johnson and Johnson. (Direct from Ringling Bros.)

10. INTERMISSION

WELLWORTH CLEANERS

CASH and CARRY

ALL GARMENTS FRENCH DRY CLEANED
and PRESSED 75c.

231-38 MERRICK ROAD
next to A & P

LAURELTON, L. I.

11. The Big Cage: NOTE: The most daring wild and domestic animal act ever presented. (The management requests perfect quiet during this act.)
12. Engerer Twins: Introducing the World's youngest stunt Bare back riders.
13. Prince. The barber pole dog.
14. Ralph and Babes: Team jumping
15. King: World's Youngest champion high jumper
16. Smith
17. Rolf- Demonstrating the use of police dogs to capture criminals.
18. Trixie. The Ace of Criminal police dogs.
19. Babes: World's greatest high diver unassisted

PROTO For Your Dog

Does a Complete Feeding Job. Contains all food values to keep your dog healthy.

ECONOMICAL- A few cents per day
WORRY GONE- Just soak in water

Recommended by CAPTAIN ENGERER

GET ONE OF HIS FOLDERS

CAPT. ENGERER'S KENNELS
PETS BOARDED
CLIPPED
PLUCKED
and
TRAINED
 MERRICK ROAD at 233rd ST.
 Rosedale, L. I.
 Tel. LAurelton 8-2981

TIS TO
LAUGH



When the
Dogs
Do Bark

JOHN RINGWALD
 Proprietor
 Quality
 BAKERY AND LUNCH ROOM
 234-04 MERRICK ROAD
 Opposite Capt. Engerer's Kennels
 LAurelton 8-8615

KEEP YOUR PETS HEALTHY

Use

"ON THE NOSE"

Humane and Effective
 for

DOGS, CATS AND ALL
FUR BEARING ANIMALS

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REAL ESTATE
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WARNERS
COMPLETE DOG FOOD
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CAPT. ENGERER



"DOGZOFF"

If you are bothered with dogs, cats or rabbits "Dogzoff" is the spray you need. It is a most efficient animal repellent and one spraying will last from three to four weeks. Not poisonous to plants and will not injure animals. Not offensive to humans. Its use is guaranteed to keep these animals from any place where they are not wanted. "Dogzoff" is applied with any small insect sprayer and one application does the work. "Dogzoff" will save its cost many times over around the garden and home.
 Price for Season's Supply **60c**

SPECIAL SPRING OPENING

— of —

CAPT. ENGERER'S SOCIETY CIRCUS

MERRICK ROAD AT 233rd STREET

Rosedale, Long Island

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

Children 20c

Adults 35c

PROGRAMME

1. Mr. and Mrs. Polandos—Horseback Riding Dogs.
2. "Prince"—The Whirlwind.
3. "Buddy"—Horseback Riding Basketball Player.
4. "Prince"—The Pole Climbing Sensation.
5. "King"—The World's Youngest Champion High Jumper.
6. "King"—The Pony With a Human Mind.
7. "Babes and Queenie"—The Clowns of Clowns.
8. The Deaf and Dumb Man and His Dog Ajax.
9. "May and Minnie"—The World's Only Two Trained and Performing Lambs.
10. "Queenie"—Through Fire and Flames.
11. "Babes and Queenie"—The Team High Jumpers.
12. "Trixie"—The Only Animal Sharp-shooter.
13. INTERMISSION.
14. "THE BIG CAGE"—Note: The most daring wild and domestic animal act ever presented. The Management requests absolute quiet during this act.
15. "THE ENGERER TWINS"—Introducing the World's Youngest Horseback Stunt Riders.
16. "Argo"—The Terror of Criminals.
17. "Trixie"—Ace of Criminal Police Dogs.
18. "Babes"—The World's Greatest High Diving Dog—unassisted.
19. Finis: Grand Ensemble of the Entire Company.

Note: Arrangement of Acts subject to change. In case of rain another showing will be made on Sunday, May 19th.

BOOKS NOW OPEN FOR DATES

UNLIMITED FEATURES FOR ALL OCCASIONS—
FROM 15 MINUTES TO 2 HOURS.

Headquarters:

MERRICK ROAD AT 233rd STREET
ROSEDALE, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

Telephone:

LAURELTON 8-2981

P. O. BOX 12, ROSEDALE, N. Y.

IF

You Value Your Dog
 Keep His Skin and Coat in
 Good Condition With

"SANA HIDE"

6-oz. 25c - pt. 75c
 qt. \$1.25 - Gal. \$3.50

Used and Recommended by
 Veterinarians

Order from Dealers or

SCHOEMAN & MAYER, INC.
 43 WEST 23rd STREET
 New York City, N. Y.

Endorsed by Leading Kennels
 and Veterinarians

"HUMANE"



DOG REMEDIES

The Best Dog Remedies in the
 World Barring None.
 All Items 25c Per Package
 Obtainable at Drug Stores,
 Kennels and Pet Shops
 If your Dealer Cannot Supply
 you Write: **S. J. ROTHCHILD,**
 Local Representative, 168-69, 92nd
 Road, Jamaica, N. Y.
 REpublic 9-5198M

"VEGETABLES"

FOR DOGS

For Your Dog's Health.

Eight fresh garden leafy vegeta-
 bles are now available in a con-
 venient form for immediate use
 by mixing with any food you
 feed your pet. All the vitamins
 and minerals of the fresh raw
 vegetables are preserved and the
 cost for a small dog is one-third
 of one cent per day.

ON SALE HERE

Capt. Engerer Recommends

LITTLE'S VEGETABLE
POWDER OR TABLETS

for your dog the year round.

FLYERS FOR ENGERER'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 **2:30 P. M.**

INCLUDING

JIMMY

The Greatest Tight-Rope Walking Dog

MINNIE and MAY

The Only Trained Lambs in the World

A J A X — Famous Moving Picture Dog

A THRILLING LION ACT!

K I N G — The World's Champion High Jumper

BALBO — Undeclared High Diver

TRIXIE — Ace Criminal Dog

PRINCE — Pole Climbing Sensation

And Other Intellectual Champions in
 Astonishing Trick and Stunt Work

Admission Free

Reserved Seats 15c

THE ROSEDALE PRESS, 241-02 SO. CONDUIT BLVD.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF ENGERER PREPARING FOR HIS CIRCUS PERFORMANCE





ENGERER'S FREE ANIMAL SHOW FOR JEWISH ORPHANS

✧ 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!



JEWISH ORPHANS SEE ANIMAL SHOW

400 Thrilled as a Dog Leaps
Through Burning Circle at
Kingston Courts.

GOAT WALKS TIGHT-ROPE

Sheep Goes Around on Knees
and Two Lions Roar and
Jump Over Barrels.

About 400 Jewish orphans were guests yesterday afternoon at the Kingston Tennis Courts, Kingston and Lefferts Avenues, Brooklyn, of a German animal trainer, who, with four assistants, in a series of exhibitions directed a shepherd dog through a fire-lit circle, had a goat walk a tight rope and played the part of lion tamer.

Captain Ernest Engerer, a Bavarian, in speaking to the children after the performance, said:

"I wanted to show the Jewish people of Brooklyn that I have no antipathy toward them, and that is why I invited only Jewish children here today."


A woman, dressed in an ensemble of scarlet, led a spotted Shetland pony out of a tent to begin the performance. At the crack of a whip the pony ran around a ring, beside which was a platform six feet high. At a second crack, two terriers came from the tent and ran up a small ladder to the platform. As the pony rounded the circle, the dogs jumped on and off his back.


A shepherd dog came out and, with Captain Engerer playing the part of a robber, the dog showed his prowess as a detective.

Another shepherd dog, classified on a handbill as the "world's champion jumper," vaulted a wall more than twelve feet high.

Two lions were loosed in a wire cage. Captain Engerer, with the crack of his whip and amid snarls and roars, guided them through a barrel-jumping performance.

THE CREATION OF THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION CIRCUS

 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!

FEDERAL THEATRE
for
NEW YORK CITY

presents
A

3 RING



AT

JAMAICA ARENA

144th Place & Archer Ave., Jamaica, N.Y.

2 SATURDAYS

2 SUNDAYS

SAT. FEB. 25th, at 2:30 & 8:30 p.m.

SUN. FEB. 26th, at 2:30 & 8:30 p.m.

SAT. MAR. 4th, at 2:30 & 8:30 p.m.

SUN. MAR. 5th, at 2:30 & 8:30 p.m.

CHILDREN 15¢

ADULTS 25¢

RESERVED SEATS 40¢

WHY THIS FEDERAL THEATRE CIRCUS?

Unemployment during recent years has been more acute among "big top" performers than in any other branch of show business.

Though the paramount aim of this project is to rehabilitate circus personnel, an aim just as important is giving a real show for the children.

Since its inception, October, 1935, The Federal Theatre Circus has entertained more than two and one half million children. Over 750,000 of these were underprivileged and had never been able to see a real circus.

Most educators admit that "the circus is the only form of entertainment that has not had to resort to smut or sex" and they consider a circus as part of every child's education.

WHAT THE FEDERAL THEATRE CIRCUS HAS DONE

More than 70 acts, given a showing by the Federal Theatre Circus, have been hired by commercial producers thus carrying out the project's program of returning out-of-work professionals to private employment. These departures from the public rolls constantly give other unemployed performers an opportunity to be seen in the WPA Circus' rings.

TWO AND A HALF MILLION CHILDREN CAN'T BE WRONG

FEDERAL  THEATRE

PRESENTS

WPA-3-RING

● CIRCUS ●

THE "TOPS" OF THE BIG TOP SHOWS

"BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER"

200 ARENA STARS, 60 STAR ACTS, 50 PIECE BAND

40 FUNNY CLOWNS, TRAINED DOGS, MONKEYS

— Special Added Attractions —

ALLEN'S LIBERTY HORSES
and
CAPTAIN ENGERER'S LIONS



CHILDREN 25c - ADULTS 40c
RESERVED SEATS 65c

ELIZABETH ARMORY

MAGNOLIA and WALNUT STREETS

ELIZABETH, N. J.

BEGINNING

JANUARY 13th

Last Time Sunday Evening, January 15th

Sponsored by 1st Battalion, 114th Infantry Regiment Fund

3 Matinees
Fri., 4 P.M.
Sat. & Sun.
at 2:30 P.M.

3 Nights
at 8:30 P.M.
Fri., Sat.
and Sun.



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!"

WHAT THE PRESS AND FANS THINK OF THIS CIRCUS

"The Circus is why I'm glad I pay income taxes"

—WALTER WINCHELL

"A thoroughly enjoyable evening"

—WALTER BUCKINGHAM
NATIONAL SEC-TREAS., CIRCUS FANS ASS'N.

"I came all the way from Galesburg, Ill. to see it and it certainly was worth the trip".

—STORME SHULTE
GALESBURG, ILL.

"Truly a wonderful evening"

—MELVIN D. HILGRENTH
NATIONAL PRESIDENT, CIRCUS FANS ASS'N.

"A darn fine show"

—MIRIAM BARON
(LUBOV-PRESS SERVICE)

"The highest class circus in America"

—WILKES-BARRE INDEPENDENT

"Colossal"

—N.Y. DAILY NEWS

"Superb entertainment"

—N.Y. ENQUIRER

"We like it"

—BROOKLYN EAGLE

"A real circus, a fine show and a moderate admission".

—THE BILLBOARD

"Entertaining"

—N.Y. EVENING JOURNAL

CAPTAIN ENGERER JOINS THE W.P.A CIRCUS!



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.



1939

LONG ISLAND DAILY PRESS, TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1939.

Two Old Favorites Back in Circus Lineup



Japino, the sacred black elephant, and Captain Ernest Engerer of Laurelton, famous lion tamer, are back with the WPA circus, which pitched its tents in Sunnyside today, to be followed by a stay in Hellis. Japino, bigger and blacker than ever, was rescued from banishment, after a series of runaway escapades, by the petitions of school children to President Roosevelt. "Don't Jettison Japino," they pleaded, so the ponderous pachyderm was restored to the WPA payroll, at three bales of hay per day. Engerer, clawed by a lion during a rehearsal at his Laurelton training quarters, spent some time in Queens General Hospital but is entirely recovered.

ENGERER IN THE RECORD NEWSPAPER & "JAPINO" THE BLACK ELEPHANT



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.

WPA CIRCUS IS SHOWING HERE FOR A.L. POSTS

Will be at Atlantic and Euclid Avenues All Week — Lion Tamer World's Greatest

The big W. P. A. circus is now showing in this section. It started a week's schedule Tuesday night in the open space near Atlantic and Euclid avenues and is being run under the sponsorship of Elmer E. Bennett Jr. Post No. 725 American Legion and the Woodhaven Post.

The W. P. A. Federal Theatre Project's big three-ring circus has been fortified this year with the acquisition of the world's greatest lion tamer, Captain Ernest Engerer, who won his title at the Cleveland exposition in 1930 when he competed against every lion tamer in the business at the national convention of lion tamers.

Captain Engerer is exhibiting his two kings of the jungle, "Leo," and "Peter," whom he captured in the jungles of Africa. An adventurer at heart, Captain Engerer is ever willing and eager to face the unknown and unpredictable.

The Engerer display of wild animals is however, just one of a whole myriad of sensations being shown at this W. P. A. circus at Atlantic and Euclid avenues.

Meyer Paris, one-time wrestler and present professional strong man, is another performer who helps make the circus a lively show. Paris weighs 246 pounds and the measurement of his arm equals the girth of the normal man's waist. One of his favorite tricks is to take a coin and bend it between the palm of his hand and his thumb.

Many other great names of vaudeville, circus and stage are to be found in the troupe, including W. E. Ritchie, comic bicyclist, and Thornton, magician and clown. Both these men and others earned weekly salaries exceeding by 20 times what they now earn at the W. P. A. circus.

ENGERER'S LATER LIFE IN THE CIRCUS BUSINESS



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!

Circus To Feature Fearless Lion Tamer

When the Greater American Circus comes to Coloma July 30 for seven big days, three of the four featured free acts will be handled by world-famous Captain Engerer.

Engerer, who is still performing when most men are thinking of retiring, has devoted his entire life to the training of wild and domestic animals.

In his performance at Coloma Township Hall, he will be alone in a cage with three lions, with nothing more than a small whip and a pistol with blank cartridges.

The lions will jump through fire, walk a high bar, and other tricks.

The Courier Newspaper: July 12, 1952





ENGERER TAKES CIRCUS ACTS TO SHOPPING CENTERS



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.

LION ACT WILL BE FREE FEATURE OF AUTOMOTIVE SHOW THIS WEEKEND IN Ocala



Ocala, Florida March 22, 1956

BIG ANIMAL ACTS

3 FREE ACTS DAILY

1:00

4:30

7:00

See Capt. Engerer
and his animals



FUN
FUN
FUN



FORT MYERS SHOPPING CENTER

— RT. 80 EAST —

One-Armed Animal Trainer Appears at Shopping Center



CAPT. ERNEST ENGERER AND LION.

Capt. Ernest Engerer, a one-armed animal trainer who at 64 is the oldest active lion tamer in the United States, is appearing at the Fort Myers Shopping Center, Palm Beach Boulevard. A native of Munich, Germany, Engerer came to America in 1920.

Performing in a steel arena, he never uses a chair but relies solely on a long black whip in putting the lions through various tricks. As a feature to his act Engerer disposes of the whip and sits with his back to the big cuts smoking a cigarette. Acts begin at 1 p. m., 4:30 p. m. and 7 p. m. No admission is charged.

Other amusements include trained dogs and ponies and various rides for children. Tickets for the rides may be obtained from any of the shopping center merchants, who will be featuring special Fun Day sales. Many of the stores will be open from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. through Saturday.

A FAT TAX

NORTH FAIRFIELD, Ohio (AP) — The village Grange has decided to use the "graduated" tax system to obtain funds for the national Grange debt.

Each member will have to pay cash by the inch — of his waistline measurement.

FORT MYERS & BAYSHORE GARDENS SHOPPING CENTERS

Fort Myers Shopping Center

❖ 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.

Bayshore Gardens Shopping Center

❖ 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.



MAD LION — "Capt. Enger," lion trainer now playing in circus acts and at Bayshore Gardens Shopping Center, had a rough time Thursday when his 'pet' refused to come down from its perch. The captain finally won out with a couple swift cracks with his whip handle. The circus and acts are featured through March 17. Free tickets are being distributed by merchants at the Bayshore center located between Sarasota and Bradenton on U.S. 41.

1960's

BENEFIT CARNIVAL FOR LOCAL MARKHAM POLICEMAN



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.

Patrolmen Sponsor Circus

Markhamites and residents from surrounding communities are invited to attend the carnival and free circus being sponsored by the Markham Patrolmen's association in cooperation with the merchants of Canterbury shopping center. The show, which got underway yesterday, will run until Sun., Aug. 27.

Proceeds from the carnival end of the double-header 'fun spree' will go into a benefit fund for local policemen. The affair offers a wide array of attractions for young and old with no cost other than that for refreshments and a small charge for rides, which can be discounted by use of chits be-

ing offered free-for-the-asking by local storeowners. Highlighting the circus is the appearance in the 'dunk tank' of local officials and village board members. Visitors are being given an opportunity to 'dunk' the VIPS by heaving a baseball at a trip latch which secures the perch upon which

the victim is seated above a water-filled pool. For added effect, the police department is withholding names of the celebrities who have volunteered to undergo this water ordeal, but the names are expected to be made public Thursday morning.

The Patrolmen have gone 'all out' in providing entertainment for this week long extravaganza.

The free circus acts include Captain Engerer, with his lions and trained dogs; Gracien, a trapeze artist who has been performing recently with the Shrine bros. circus; and Earle the Clown.

The carnival forms a big part of the week's activities. In addition to six rides-among which is a ferris wheel, tilt-a-whirl, barrel ride, merry-go-round, little cars, and one 'surprise ride'—there is an ample supply of hot dogs, soda pop, and various booths.

The circus acts are entirely free. The normal 25 cent ride charge, however, can be cut to 15 cents by use of the discount chits.

One of the highlights of the circus is the reappearance at Canterbury of Capt. Engerer whose daring exploits with his lions at a similar circus-carnival here several months ago drew huge crowds and rave notices.

The 71-year old mammalian acrobat, who has been in the animal training business for almost 50 years, caps his lion act by lining up his charges on stools, then calmly seats himself in front of them with his back turned and smokes a cigarette. He lost an arm performing this stunt several years ago.

'Gracien' has been identified as the performer who served as 'stand-in' for Betty Hutton during trapeze scenes in the Hollywood movie, "The Greatest Show On Earth." She comes from a family which has worked in circuses for two generations. She has worked with most of the major shows in European and U. S., including the Ringling Bros.-Barnum and Bailey organization.



CAPT. ENGERER, trainer of wild and domestic animals, gets help Monday in assembling the cage in which he works. He and his lion and dog acts are appearing in the Markham Patrolmen's association benefit circus and carnival which began yesterday and will run to Aug. 27. The circus portion of the

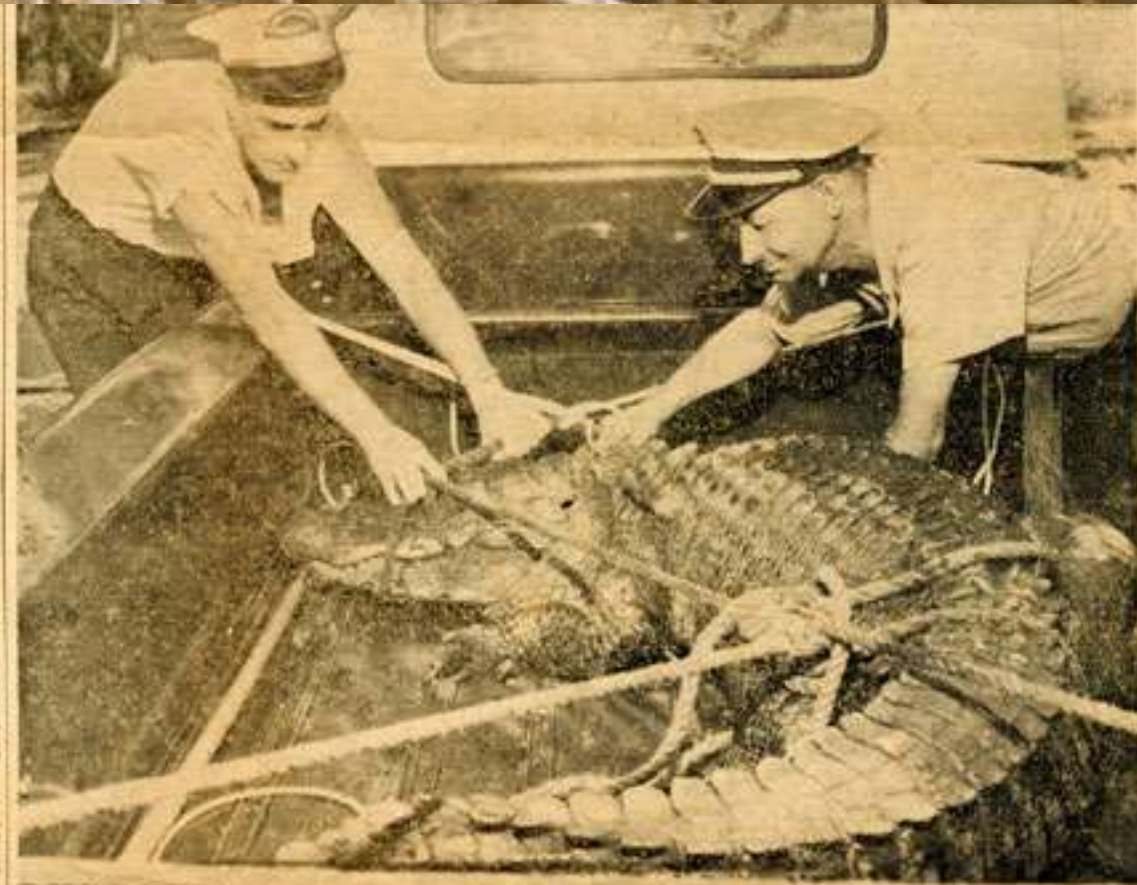
week-long affair is free. With the Captain are, left to right: Edward Gresham, Engerer's manager; Ronald O'Dell, 2712 Circle dr.; Wally Kara, 15607 Ridgeway; Jerry Thuesing, 3676 Sunset; Bill Wheelock, of Wauconda; and John Moyer, 16031 Hamlin.

EXTRA! EXTRA! GET YOUR NEWS BITS REGARDING ENGERER'S WACKY ENCOUNTERS WITH ANIMALS!

🦎 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.



NEWEST CRANDON PARK RESIDENT is this 10-foot, 75-year-old alligator, named Thunderbolt. Donated by the Barnes Bears Circus, which has winter quarters here, the 'gator is the largest member of the park zoo's alligator clan, which now numbers eight. Unloading him from the truck are two assistant zoo directors, Phil Mathieu, left, and Capt. Ernest Engerer.

—Herald Staff Photo by Stan Warman

1952



- 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 NURSES A RARE ALBINO LION CLUB



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.



CIRCUS MENAGERIE ON BANKS OF ROCKY RIVER? HERE'S PROOF

The Rocky River valley south of Anderson has resounded to the trumpet of elephants and blood curdling lion's roar during the past several days. Part of Benson Brothers Circus is temporarily encamped just off the road between Broadway Lake and the Abbeville Highway between show dates. At left, Capt. Ernest Engerer, lion tamer who lost his left hand to a black panther,

plays cozy with a young, toothy lion who is the sire of the extremely rare all-white albino lion cub (center photo) born a few days ago at the Rocky River campsite. Capt. Engerer is carefully nursing the white cub, probably the first ever born in the Southeast. At right, about eight tons of real elephant fascinates Lynn Dell Butler and Gene Powell of Avondale Drive,

who were among many visitors during the weekend. The elephants bathe and frolic each afternoon in Rocky River. The menagerie also includes monkeys, birds, snakes and horses. Group will move on when repair of the Big Top and other equipment is completed. (Daily Mail Photos by Wilton E. Hall Jr.).

REX THE LION GETS LOOSE ON JERICO TURNPIKE!



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 fire house 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!

1940's Long Island

Loose Lion Gives Up Liberty For a Four-Pound Steak

A lion broke out of his cage at New Hyde Park last night . . . but gave up his liberty for a sirloin steak.

In the midst of a circus performance on Jericho turnpike, a roustabout tipped off Captain Ernest Engerer, the owner and star, that Rex, a 3-year-old lion, was outside his cage and sitting on the tailboard of his truck.

The captain bowed out somewhat hastily to see Rex about it.

Swinging a test stake in his right hand—because he had lost the left one in a battle with one of Rex' predecessors years ago—Captain Engerer tried to drive the animal into his cage, but Rex simply toyed with the stake and made a few vicious passes at the captain.

Engerer gave up that idea and threw a net over the back of the truck.

He tied down the net and drove the truck with lion, cage and all a half mile to New Hyde Park's fire house. He told police and firemen of the delicate situation and they let the captain drive right in. Then he closed the fire house doors and took a walk to the nearest meat market.

"One nice steak . . . about four pounds," ordered Captain Engerer. "T-Bone?"

"Make it sirloin," said the captain. "It's for a lion."

"For a what?"

"For a lion," the tamer repeated.

(Continued on Page Two)



STEAK LURES LOOSE LION BACK TO CAGE

(Continued From Page One)
"He's sitting on the tailboard of the truck . . ."

The meatman looked the captain straight in the eye and scratched his head. Engerer allayed the tamer's astonishment by relating the details of the story and, tucking the net under his arm, he walked back to the fire house. The place was surrounded by policemen, firemen and townspeople.

The policemen set up two machine guns on the window sill in case," they said.

Engerer walked in and four pawing at the net that kept the lion on the truck. The captain climbed the side of the truck and, spotting the steak on the end of a pole, he poked the meat into Rex' cage. The lion spotted it, dived in after the meat and Engerer slammed the cage shut.

Back in the driver's seat, Engerer hurried back to the circus with the lion . . . but he was too late for the lion act. The show was over and the crowd had gone home.

Engerer's home and headquarters are on Merrick road in Laurelton. Early in March, 1939, his son Ernest Jr., 18, rescued him from the clutches of an enraged lion in their own yard. A week later, the boy took the father's place in the WPA circus at the Jamaica A. and put a lioness through its

LION MAULINGS

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.

THOSE WHO PLAY
WITH CATS MUST
EXPECT TO BE
SCRATCHED.



CIRCUS NOTES

As we go to press, Captain Ernest Engerer, who has the lion act on the WPA circus was badly clawed by Leo and Peter, two of the fighting lions in his act. The mishap occurred Friday night, Feb. 24th. Engerer, who lost an arm several years ago in Manhattan when he was attacked by lions probably owes his life to his 18-year old son, Ernest Jr., who beat the frenzied beasts off with a club. Doctor William Stein of Jamaica put over 40 stitches in the most serious cuts on the trainer's arms, back, and chest and then rushed him to the Queens General Hospital where his condition is described as being "fair." True to the tradition of the Tanbark "That the Show Must Go On" the trainer's 18-year old son, Ernest, Jr., took his father's place in the arena with a coolness that hid his emotions and inexperience. His father has been "breaking him in" for the past two years.

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.

Trainer Who Lost Arm to Lion Clawed Again at Armory Circus

Captain Ernest Engerer, 52-year-old animal trainer and former Laurelton resident, whose left arm was torn off by a lion 12 years ago, was clawed on the other in a similar encounter at the Jamaica Armory, 168th street and 93rd avenue, Jamaica, last night.

Clawed by one of five lionesses which he was putting on an act at a Victory Circus, being held for the benefit of the Fourth Regiment, State Guard, Engerer was clawed on the forehead and right arm and was tumbled from a pedestal across which he had been walking.

This Wasn't on the Program



Dr. Jack Gillman of Jamaica, medical officer to the 4th Regiment, State Guard, patches up Captain Ernest Engerer, lion trainer, who was clawed last night as he put his "cats" through their paces at the Victory Circus in the Jamaica Armory.

LION CLAWS HIS TRAINER AT ARMORY

(Continued From Page One)

with the five lions, two of which are said to have killed previous trainers, at about 9 P. M. to present a tableau in which he defied his charges by lying in their midst on a pedestal, the animals surrounding him, each crouching on its own pedestal.

One lion was on each side of the trainer, one at his feet, one at his head, on a pedestal of the same height as the others, and the other at his head on a slightly higher pedestal. The trainer was on his left side.

Injuries Slight, He Says

Without warning, one of the lions, named Sheba, lunged at Engerer with one of its paws. The claws swept across his forehead, then came down on his arm, inflicting scratches and the puncture wounds and knocking him off the pedestal.

After getting on his feet and again bringing the lions under control, Engerer left the cage and was given first aid treatment by two members of the American Women's Hospital Reserve Corps stationed at the armory. Later he was given tetanus anti-toxin treatment by Dr. Jack Gillman of 88-39 146th street, Jamaica, of the medical attachment of the Fourth Regiment, after which he left for Springfield Gardens where he is staying with friends.

The lions, meanwhile, had been taken back to their own cages by assistants of Engerer.

The trainer regarded his injuries as slight, and said that he plans to reappear the armory today when he is scheduled to give three performances.

Engerer, who has been making a tour of Army camp shows, was clawed by a lion about a year and a half ago at a menagerie which he conducted in Laurelton. He appeared at last night's circus after driving from Fort Blanding, Fla., where he had performed in a camp show.

The hospital reserves who gave him first aid are Vivian Stephen and Adele Brunjes, both Richmond Hill.

CIRCUS LIONS SLAIN AFTER MAULING TWO MEN

- ❖ 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.

CRASH FREES LIONS; THEY ATTACK 2 MEN
New York Times (1967/Current/Files; May 8, 1962; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The
98, 22

CRASH FREES LIONS; THEY ATTACK 2 MEN

ST. CHARLES, Ill., May 7 (UPI)—Two lions broke loose from a circus trailer on the outskirts of St. Charles today and mauled a keeper and a passerby. A deputy sheriff killed the animals.

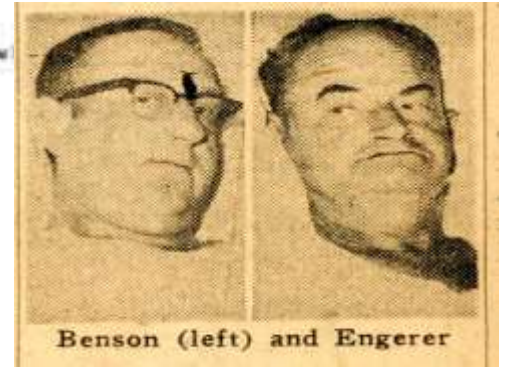
The lions sprang to freedom when the trailer broke open after an automobile that was pulling it collided with a panel truck.

Thomas Benson, 36 years old, of Aurora, Ill., a passerby, was clawed when he tried to help corral the beasts and grabbed one by its tail and a rear leg.

Ernest Engerer, 59, of Macon, Ga., the keeper, was attacked by the other lion as he tried to guide it back into the trailer.

Deputy Sheriff Al Humbrach killed the lions with a gun.

Deputy Sheriff Henry Swanson said the trailer was taking the lions to Palatine, a suburb of Chicago. The police said Addie Estelle Connell, of St. Petersburg, Fla., was driving the auto pulling the trailer when she lost control of the car. The automobile careened into a panel truck, which overturned.



Benson (left) and Engerer

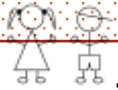
Another Shot Fired

Meanwhile, Engerer, attempted to chain the second lion, called for help, and Humbrach ran over and shot it in the head.

Engerer and Benson were treated for lacerations in Delnor hospital in St. Charles. Engerer, who lost his left arm to a black panther in 1939, was bitten on the leg, and Benson, a watchman in the Illinois State Training School for Boys, was bitten on the leg, thigh, and one arm.

The driver of the truck, Jefferson Munn, 19, of 419 W. 2d st., Elmhurst, and Mrs. Addie Connell, 67, of Macon, Ga., the driver of the car, were not hurt.

FAMILY LIFE



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.

family



Photographs
of Ernest O. Engerer
(Captain Engerer's Son)



ENGERER'S FINAL ACT

* 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....


CAPT. ENGERER'S
CIRCUS
DAILY





GRAND FINALE

 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.

1964

Lion Kills One-Armed Trainer As Horrified Spectators Watch

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C., July 11 (UPI).—A lion leaped on his one-armed trainer during a performance today, killed him and shook his body "like a bale of hay" until police cut the cat down with machinegun fire.

The trainer, Capt. Ernest E. Engerer, 57, prodded the 500-pound, 15-year-old cat with a pole when it refused to obey a command. The lion, called Monte, sprang upon him without warning before 25 horrified spectators.

one leap and seized his jugular vein," said Capt. Engerer's assistant, Edgar Gresham. "Engerer let out one scream — 'Oh, Eddie,' he called—but he never got up."

Forsyth County Deputy E. L. Von Cannon was the first of-

ficer to arrive at the small amusement park but he said "They told me not to use my pistol."

They were afraid it would shake up the cat and they were afraid he'd tear down the cage."

He called for help and the lion continued to maul Capt. Engerer's body.

BUCKSHOT FAILS

Deputy Sheriff G. R. Dillon came and fired four charges of buckshot into the enraged beast with little effect. Policeman Bob Archer then killed the cat with a spray of sub-machinegun bullets.

Capt. Engerer, a native of Munich, German, was performing at the Enchanted Village, a small amusement park north of here.



BEWARE
of
ROARING LION

Seeking Whom He May Devour

1-Peter 3-8



Brockton Retains Strates

Rides and shows for next year's Brockton (Mass.) Fair have been awarded to the James E. Strates Shows, fair manager George Carney Jr. announces. The report was issued Friday (10) while the fair was still in session.

The midway was laced by rain on seven of the nine days, reportedly taking in some \$10,000 more than the 1963 gross. Sunday's (12) loading of the show train drew interested crowds, providing a nice day's work to ice cream vendors at the sidings.

Aerialist and Lion Trainer Killed in Onstage Incidents

The circus public saw two performers taken by death this month — a woman aerialist killed in a fall, and trainer Capt. Ernest Engerer slain in the ring by his lion. Circumstances:

Mrs. Betty Bergen of the Silver Condors had finished her act at a shopping center and was descending when she took a 50-foot fall on Thursday (9), dying instantly from a broken neck. She appeared with her husband, Fred, and Robert Marcel. Also traveling with them was her son Fred Jr. They are from East Palatka, Fla.

The troupe was appearing with the Hagan-Wallace Circus, Dub Duggan's shopping center combined circus and midway. There were some 300 spectators watching at Thruway Plaza in Cheektowaga, N. Y.

Engerer's death came just as suddenly as he performed Saturday (11) at Enchanted Village on U.S. 421 near Winston-Salem, N.C. About 25 spectators saw the one-armed trainer jumped by his 500-pound African lion, Monte, and grabbed fatally at the jugular vein. The lion mistreated the body for a half-hour before police machine-gunned it to death. Park manager Dick Ashburn said Engerer had

finished a dog act, entered the cage, and faced the lion as it was released by assistant Edgar Gresham. Gresham said Monte leaped after being poked with a bamboo pole.

Stills Spotty for C-21 Units, But Keokuk Cele Opens Big

Century 21 Shows, coming out of winter quarters at North Birmingham, Ala., found business spotty at still dates in Decatur, Ala.; Hopkinsville, Ky., and Evansville, Ind., owner Al Kunz reported. Show then split into three units for July 4 dates at Connersville, Ind., Centralia and Flora, Ill., with business reported good for all spots.

Units coming out of Connersville jumped 450 miles to join the other two for a big date at Keokuk, Ia., July 6-11, billed as the "world's largest street fair" and sponsored by the local Jaycees.

Kunz reported the midway covered a 20-city-block area, monopolizing the entire downtown section. Police estimated opening night attendance at 25,000 and grosses shot up a whopping 25 per cent over last year's first night. Dick Biondi, well-known network radio deejay, guested on the midway.

A powerful array of rides was topped by the Sky Wheel, Himalaya Express, Hurricane, Trabant and Mad Mouse in grosses, with 15 kiddie rides also proving a big attraction, according to Kunz. On the back end, Ron and Roxanne Mason's Playgirls Revue was taking top dollar, followed by Jack and Ann Faircloth's Motor-drome and Tiny Kennedy's Harlem Hootenanny U.S.A.

The Century 21 caravan includes over 100 tractor-trailer units, both show-owned and independents. To eliminate possible highway traffic congestion such a convoy could create, equipment is dismantled, loaded and

Articles Describing Engerer's Tragic Death

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 riddled the cat with machine-gun fire.

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.

Captain 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.

"The cat shook him as if he were a bale of hay," Mr. Gresham said. "It went absolutely wild, leaping around the cage, then going back to shake the body again."

VICTIM HAD PERFORMED ON SUNCOAST

Retirement Was So Near For Elderly Lion Tamer

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (UPI) — Once upon a time, Capt. Ernest Engerer faced 40 snarling cats in the center ring, thrilling audiences from Europe to America.

That was in the heyday of the big top, when Hagensback-Wallace, Bailey Brothers, and Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey were magic names to every child.

Capt. Ernest was a star, even more so when a panther chewed his arm off in the ring and he came back to the sawdust and renewed his lion training act with only one arm.

THE CAPTAIN came from a proud line. His father, back in Munich, was an animal trainer. Engerer himself spent six years trapping animals for Hagensback-Wallace, and in 1914, after a successful tour of Europe, he brought his lion act to the United States with the circus.

But things change. The era of the big top vanished, and Capt. Ernest, nearly 71, slowly slid down the ladder of fame. Finally, "the world's champion animal trainer" was reduced to playing at shopping centers and amusement parks, putting mangy lions through their paces in a rickety little cage.

He talked about retiring at Tarpon Springs, Fla., where the sun would soothe his aches and the twinges of pain from the marks of teeth and claws that crosshatched his body.

CAPT. ENGERER was a St. Petersburg resident for about 10 years some years ago, Times files show. He staged lion, dog and pony shows in St. Petersburg.

"He just about agreed that he would retire," said his white-haired wife. "He agreed that maybe next year he would stop fooling around with the animals. He thought his reflexes were slowing down."

But Engerer polished his act and came North for the season. They were engaged by a little amusement park north of here

called Enchanted Village, which features kiddie rides, a miniature golf course and picnic areas.

Saturday Engerer stepped into the cage for the second of his three daily performances. Armed with a long pole, he faced Monte, a 500-pound lion he had owned for 12 years. Twenty-five children stood around the cage and gaped in awe.

THE OLD MAN poked the beast with the pole and barked, "Seat" — the lion's cue to leap onto a perch.

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

THE LION mangled the old trainer for 45 minutes before police arrived with enough firepower to kill it. It took three volleys from a shotgun and a submachinegun to slay the raging beast.

DEATH



- 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.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

21215

REGISTRATION DISTRICT NO. 34-00 REGISTRAR'S CERTIFICATE NO. 34-00/191

1. PLACE OF DEATH
a. COUNTY Forsyth b. TOWNSHIP South Fork

2. JOURNAL RESIDENCE (When deceased lived, if institution: residence before admission)
a. STATE N. C. b. COUNTY Forsyth

3. CITY OR TOWN Winston-Salem, N. C. In Place of Death Within City Limits? YES ☐ NO ☒

4. STREET ADDRESS or R. F. D. NO. Jonestown Trailer Park

5. FULL NAME OF (If not in hospital or institution, give street address or location) Enchanted Village

6. NAME OF DECEASED Ernest F. Engerer

7. DATE OF DEATH July 11, 1964

8. SEX Male 9. COLOR OR RACE White 10. MARRIED ☐ NEVER MARRIED ☒ 11. DATE OF BIRTH 8-9-93 12. AGE (In years last birthday) 70 13. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? U.S.A.

14. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired) Animal Trainer 15. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Animal Trainer 16. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) Munich, Germany 17. NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE Addie Caraker Engerer

18. FATHER'S NAME Unknown 19. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Unknown

20. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give year or date of service) 21. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. 22. INFORMANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS Mrs. E. F. Engerer, Winston-Salem, N. C.

23. CAUSE OF DEATH—ENTER ONLY ONE CAUSE PER LINE FOR (a), (b) and (c)
PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY:
IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) Broken Neck
ANTECEDENT CAUSE—(b) and (c), if any, which gave rise to above cause (a), stating the underlying cause last.
DUE TO (b) Blow from lion
DUE TO (c)

PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO IMMEDIATE CAUSE (b) OR (c) (If any, state in Part I or Part II of item 18)

24. ACCIDENT INJURY HOMICIDE ☒ ☐ ☐ 25. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of item 18) Struck by enraged lion

26. TIME MONTH, DAY, YEAR OF INJURY 7-11-64 27. PLACE OF INJURY (e.g., in or about home, farm, factory, office, etc.) Caravan 28. CITY OR TOWNSHIP COUNTY STATE Forsyth County NC

29. I attended the deceased from 30. Death occurred at 6:45 P. M. on the date stated above, and to the best of my knowledge from the causes stated.

31. SIGNATURE W. D. Wheeler, M.D. 32. ADDRESS Forsyth County 33. DATE SIGNED 7-14-64

34. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY Woodland Cemetery 35. LOCATION (City, town, or county) Winston-Salem, N. C.

36. DATE REC'D BY LOCAL REG. 7-20-64 37. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE Robert P. Long, Jr. 38. FUNERAL HOME WALL FUNERAL HOME, INC., WINSTON-SALEM, N. C.

THIS COPY FOR STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Pub. Together with
Licensure
Registration
Examination
Signature
Filing
Fees
Form 10-1-64
Bureau of Vital Statistics
1-62 10000

SOURCES

- 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



★ CAPT. ERNEST ENGERER
AND HIS LIONS