

# Writers Forum

By GEORGE RUSS

Staging a Cub Scout Circus can be a gargantuan fun rally and a gigantic pain in the neck at the same time. All you have in your favor is a mammoth amount of enthusiasm - boys gushing excitement at every turn you make; at the ends of flag poles, make-up kits, costume crates - up one side and down the other. Entanglement is synonymous with every movement the rockling youngsters make. A threat to throw the towel into the bucket and abandon the fun frolic is a bad presentation of taunt nerves because you are fully aware that too much has gone into the outlay of preparations to "turn back now." So, back tracking won't solve or quell the problem of spirit of the happy, helpful, hollering boys.

Experience has taught you that "a stitch in time saves nine," therefore, you haul out all the props of producing a scenic backdrop for a Cheyenne Leaf Indian Circus. Whistling while you work speeds up the production of a colorama spectacular you have in mind for Pack III's Indian dancers, hence, the gathering clouds and distant rumbles of thunder have no effect on your "color struck" senses until a Cub Scout queries you about what happens if it rains.

"If it rains, you'll shiver back and laughed up toward the beaming sun. "We can do out Rain Dance inside Bucky's house but where will we parade?"

"Grandpa, we aren't going to get any rain before midnight."

"But it's going to rain today!" The boy persisted.

"You get out of this sun -

start blowing up the balloons."

"Balloons!"

"Scram, fellow!"

"If it rains, we can go to the church's basement - can't we?"

Black clouds underlining the son blurs the Circus area and you scrutinize the overhead for the first time. "Rain!" You exclaim incredulously. However, your spirit of good will remains unscathed and the business of getting the job finished continues as usual: attention to every detail.

The boys are gathering too soon but you don't let this trouble your mind; "Better to have the braves on hand too soon than only a chief at starting time." This sagely advise brings relief to you muddled brain. The sun, you recall, dehydrates your body much faster than it does most Afro-Americans - the idea is whacky, but you have lived with it too long to let go now.

While you stand admiring your astounding handiwork, a streak of lightning darts across the sky, followed by a booming roll of thunder, then came the rain. At first a few scattering drops, warn and spattering. Your heart sinks deeply into the pangs of disappointment.

In gleeful delight, the boys all find shelter. You are too stunned to move. The feeling of dejection that sweeps you stems from the thought of having to postpone the blanket-blank Circus. Working against great odds is a way of life with you; picking up the broken pieces of crushed hopes has become a sort of badge of prestige, therefore, you have no anger to abate

not discouragement to assuage. Only dejection, at the moment, to wrestle with. A clap of thunder and lightning shakes you out of your stupor and you run like a rabbit to escape being drenched by the pouring rain.

Inside the home of the Pratts, your dejection is replaced by fear - here, you have ten squirming cubs to hold in restraint. Lamps, vases, water glasses, upholstery, furniture legs are all in danger of being broken, scuffed, stained, torn or spat-tered.

There is no time to think of your circus decorations of crepe paper being drenched and torn into shreds - you have a house to save from a razing.

The question of "where do we go from here" was asked so often that a buzzing headache set in. Dividing my thoughts between "where we go, from here," and praying that the Pratts would not be terrible angry when they returned home and discovered a Cubmaster and 10 Cubs taking over their abode, the time dragged itself out.

The Pratts are real nice folk; they thoroughly understood our situation and to appease the wrong the gods had wrought us, they turned on the television for our entertainment.

By the time "Hazel" had done her number, you're too

sleepy to care if the sun doesn't come out. However, the rain did finally stop and a blushing sunshine came forth. And so, you make an attempt to retrieve your fallen spirit. The dripping decoration gives you a sudden relapse - but, the boys' enthusiasm skyrockets once more and your ears ring with the question, "Is we going to have the Circus?"

"Yep! The show will go on."

At this point an Aquarian friend speaks up, a sort of voice of doom; "I'd wait another hour or more before putting up anymore decorations. These summer rain clouds are tricky."

Once more your ears are hearing a warning and, this time you're listening. Back to the television set you go.

At 5:30, the Pratt's, mama 'n papa, follow you to the Circus ground-and together, we redecorate the whole place. By 6:15 everything was in readiness, except the boys who were tripping over one another trying to turn into Cheyenne Leaf Indians; nevertheless, they were ready before the speed regulator was set for the march music.

The parade wasn't a mile long but it carried with it all splendor that parades should have. And the motely crowd gathered at ringside cheered

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