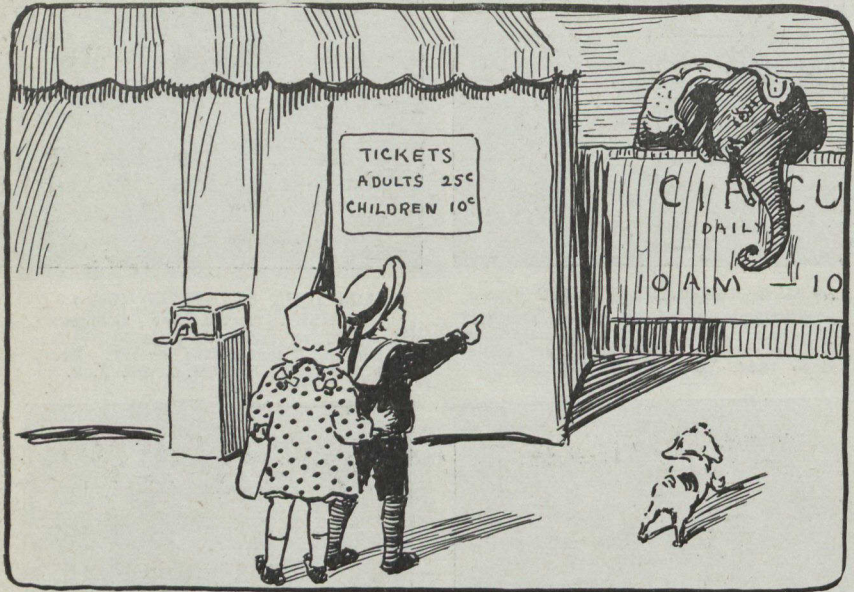
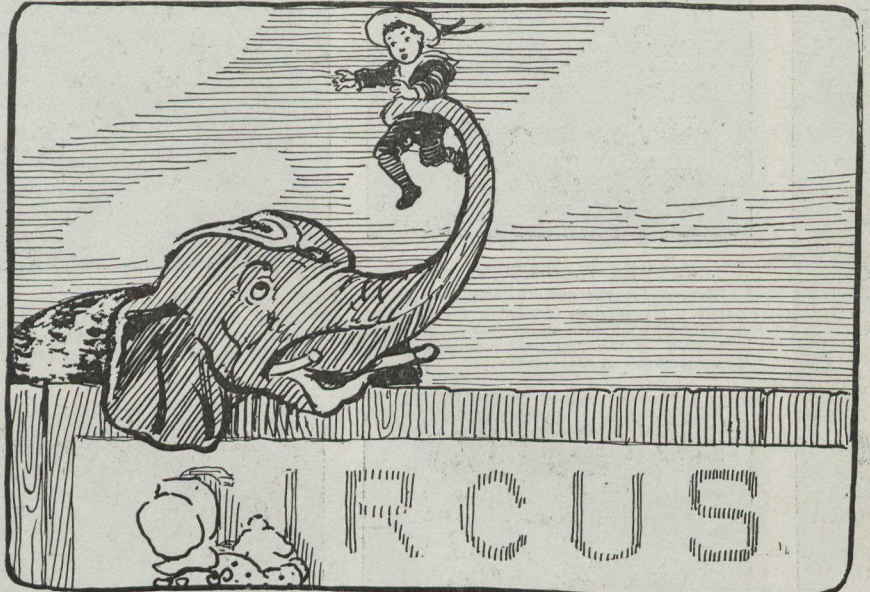


Why Willie and Lillie Were Late - By Estelle M. Kerr.



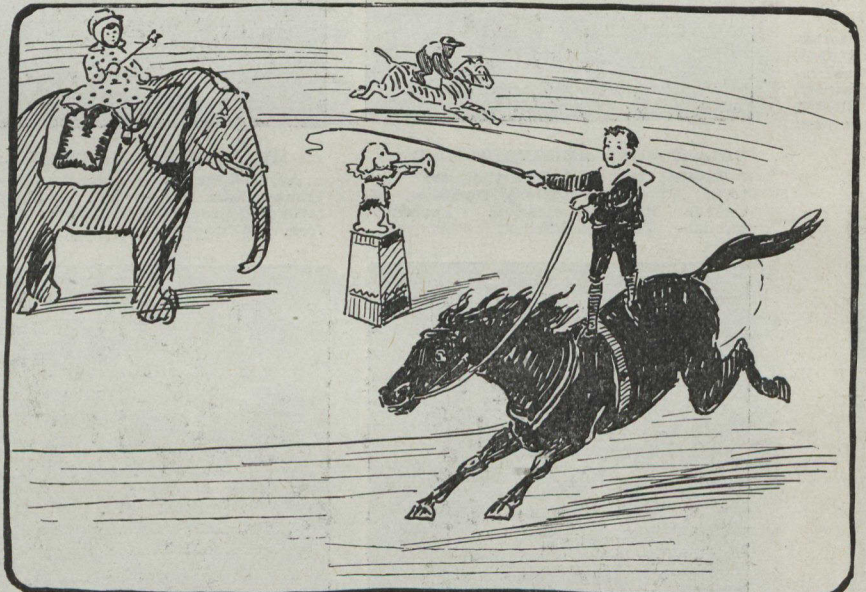
1. As Willie and Lillie went to school they saw a circus tent
And paused before it open-mouthed to wonder what it meant.
"Good morning," said the elephant. "I'd like to ask you in,
The doors will be unlocked at ten, and then the show'll begin."



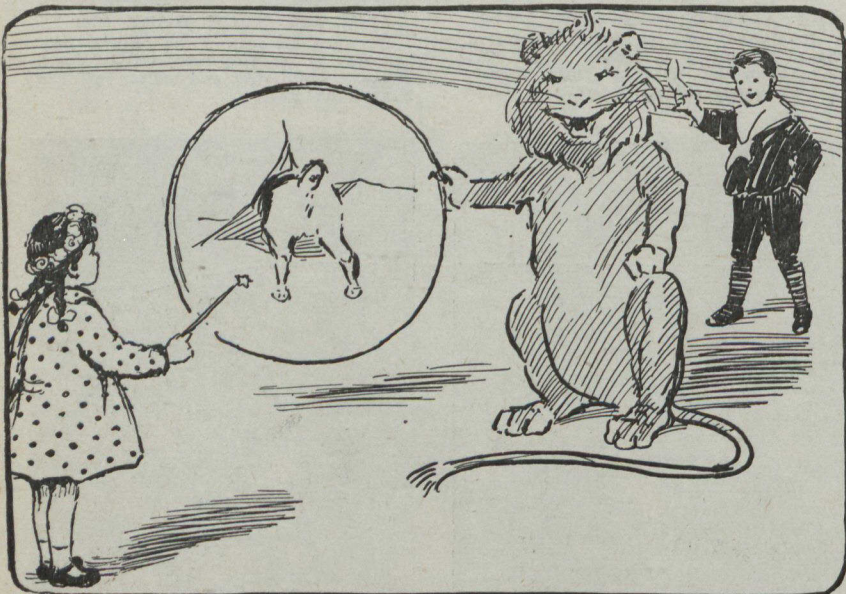
2. "I'm sorry sir," said Willie, "by then we'll be in school."
"Then come in now," he kindly said, "though it's against the rule."
He lifted them with care and ease within the circus ring;
He didn't charge a cent—he was too nice for anything!



3. They hadn't finished breakfast, and Jumbo poured the tea.
"You see we were up late last night," said Tiger sleepily.
"Now, animals," kind Jumbo called, "come show what you can do!
These children cannot wait till ten,---come then it's up to you!"



4. Then Willie did the bare-back stunt and rode a coal black horse,
A Monkey on a Zebra followed him about the course,
Then Toby blew the trumpet, and Lillie cried, "Oh, my,
You cannot tell what you can do until you go and try!"



5. The Lion held the paper hoop and Toby jumped clean through it,
While Willie shouted, "Good old dog! I never thought you'd do it!"
In fact they did so many tricks, that kind old Jumbo said,
"I think we must dismiss the clowns and take you on instead!"



6. "But we must go," said Willie, "I fear we will be late!"
"Don't worry," said the Ostrich, "I'll take you to the gate!"
The Ostrich ran with mighty strides,---he was the strongest bird,---
But they were twenty minutes late,---they were, upon my word!