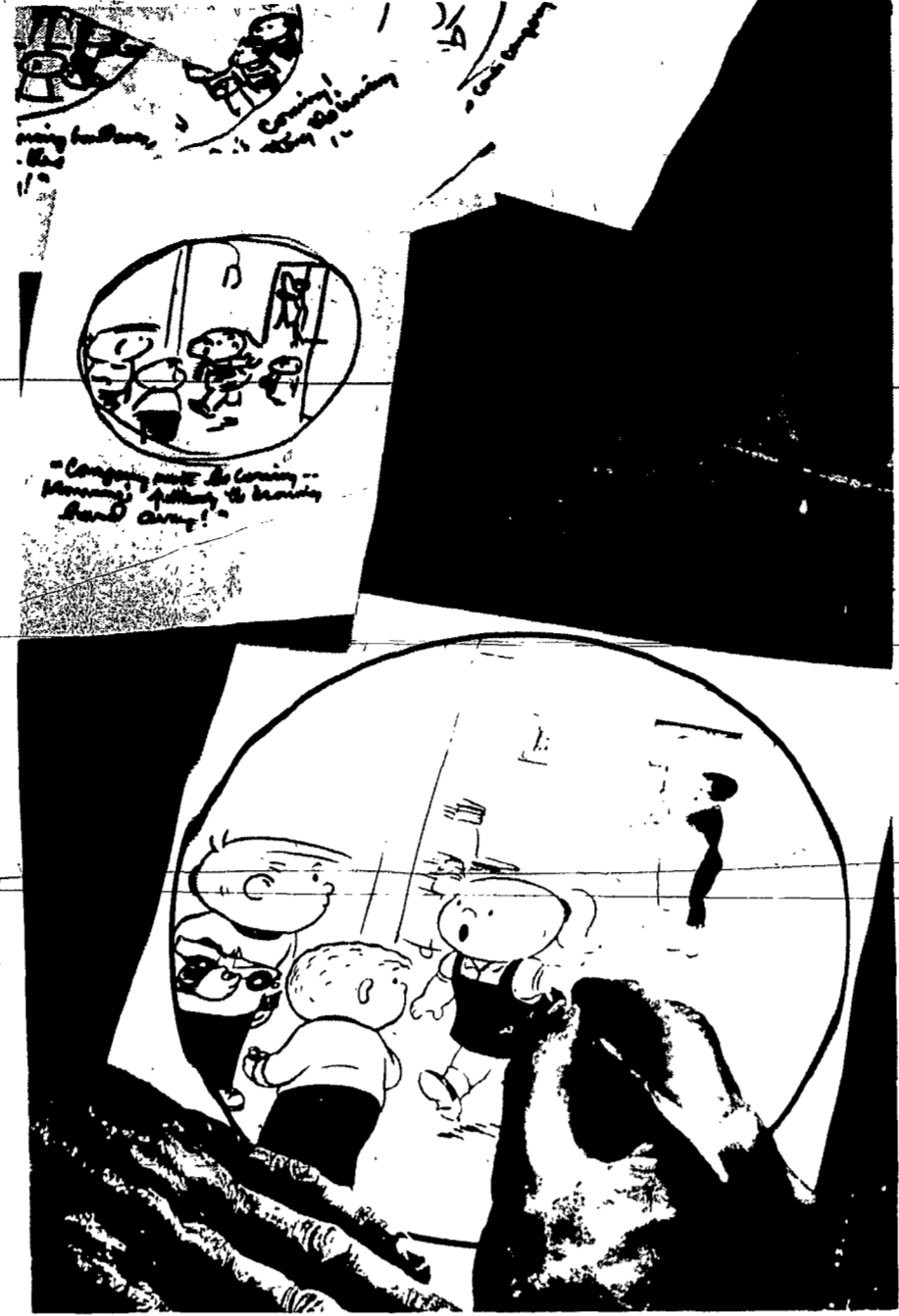


Behind the Scenes of 'Family Circus' Cartoon



What does it mean when Thelma puts the ironing board away? There's funny idea here somewhere. Cartoonist Bill Keane sketches many different cartoons, all based around the simple idea that straightening the house and putting the ironing board



away means company is coming. After many rough sketches and criticism from his real life family, Bill decides on one drawing and caption. He finishes it in ink. Six weeks later you will see it in your paper.

ample of children's good intentions gone askew as you can have.

Keane's real family, as one writer put it, is just as square, and "so normal" it could drive a beatnik wild enough to take a bath.

Keane met his wife, Thelma, in Brisbane, Australia, while on duty there with the First Cavalry Division during World War II. After a round-the-world courtship by mail, they were married in 1948. Since 1959, when the idea of "Family Circus" became firm, they have lived in Paradise Valley, Ariz.

They now have five Keanes who provide most of the situations which are so amusingly shown in the daily panel.

Gayle, the eldest, was just a tot when, in 1952, Keane worked up a cartoon that was the genesis of the present "Family Circus." It was called "Christmas Toys," a group of drawings of a small child beating on an old man while the new drum lay nearby, and so on.

Keane was then free-lancing to such magazines as *This Week* and *The Saturday Evening Post*. As his own family grew—Neal is now 15, Glen, 13, Chris, 10 and Jeff, 9—he discovered that editors were most enthusiastic about his family life cartoons.

And so "The Family Circus" was born on February 29, 1960.

Actually, cartooning was Keane's second ambition. The first was to be a comedian. Born on the outskirts of Philadelphia in 1922, he attended Northeast Catholic High School there, and drew cartoons for the school magazine. Unable to go to college, he got a job as errand boy for the Philadelphia Bulletin, and graduated to its art department.

In order to put out the two daily panels and the Sunday color pages (six weeks ahead of publication), Keane has to put in long hours. But his studio is in his home, and thus he is close to his "editor" and critics—Thelma and the children. If they vote "no" on a panel, he works it over again or scraps it.

All this family help, added to Keane's talent and optimism, makes "The Family Circus" a success. He's been too busy working and enjoying his family to believe that the world is as bad as the gloom-and-doomers say it is. He finds the world good—and so do his millions of fans.

Keane explains, "Take the situation of children making mess of things trying to be helpful. The usual way of presenting a cartoon of this would be to have the kids slapping red paint all over the place while the old man is trying to paint it white. When I did a panel on the situation, I simply had Dolly and Jeff fixing their own dry cereal and spilling it on the table and floor. That's about as normal or common an ex-

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among people who want to be funny to exaggerate. I do just the opposite. I tone down every idea I get."

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CHILD CARE, LIVE-IN

WOMAN who needs home wanted to live-in and care for children (ages 6, 9). do light housekeeping. References. 266-7450.

Cartoonist Bill Keane—whose simple line cartoons are as clean-cut as his abbreviated first name—has two families.

Keane's real family is years older than the cherubs of his paper and ink group, who grow know his cartoon family, but only one year in every four. "I don't have to worry about my kids moving out on me," Keane says of the leap-year family.

Keane doesn't feel that way about his own children who are the prototypes for "The Family Circus" kids.

Keane says of the leap-year family: "I pity those parents who are afraid to see their children grow up." Keane says, "I look forward to our children's development—the new aspects of their characters, the new friends and interests. It helps Thelma (his wife, Thelma) and me keep young watching them grow, both outside and inside."

The Keanes aren't child-rearing fanatics, though they take their children seriously. "There's nothing in the world so important as children," says Keane. "They're the only real legacy we leave."

And he isn't worried about today's kids.

"Basically, families are the same as always. The surroundings just change."

The 20,000 fans who write to Keane each year about "The Family Circus" attest to this fact.

"You're peeking! It's absolutely uncanny the way your 'Family Circus' knows what my family is doing," wrote one reader.

Said another: "We are not alone, after all."

Parents aren't the only ones who appreciate Bill Keane's fresh view of a basically good world.

"I may be a bachelor, but that doesn't stop me from being an imaginative uncle."

"I feel that many of my clients," wrote a family counselor, "who have parent-child problems, can gain some knowledge from 'The Family Circus.'"

"The Family Circus" has been popular (220 newspapers) since Keane began it in 1960. He had earlier, in 1954, begun a daily grin at TV, "Channel Chuckles," that goes to 130 papers. And he has tacked on a bonus panel to the Sunday "Family Circus," called "Side Show," which is a set of illustrated puns.

"The Family Circus" is most popular with Keane's public, and is his favorite, too—in a circle formal, the cartoon treats ordinary happenings of a family—Mommy and Daddy, four children (Billy, the oldest, pony-tailed Dolly, Jeffy and P.J., the baby born into the comic 5 years ago who is still in diapers) and the dog, Barly.

None of the family is kooky or unusual, including the dog. Their happenings are the normal kinds of things that occur in many families. And Keane treats them in low-key.

"There's a general tendency

Folk Festival

The Teenagers' League for Responsible Citizenship is sponsoring its second Annual Folk Festival to be held at 8 p.m., August 11, at Rochester's Highland Park Bowl. Admission is free.

The 2nd annual Teen League Folk Festival has been planned and arranged as a service project by a committee of the Teenagers' League for Responsible Citizenship, sponsored by the Rochester Junior Chamber of Commerce.

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Sr. Raymonda, S.S.J.
Funeral Mass Held

Funeral services for Sister Raymonda Nier, of the Sisters of St. Joseph, were held at the Motherhouse on East Avenue Monday, July 31.

The Requiem Mass was offered by Monsignor John M. Duffy, assisted by Monsignor Albert Schnacky. Present also were Monsignor John McCafferty, and Fathers James Slattery, John Murphy, Richard Hart, Albert Ryara, John Philipps and William Flynn.

Sister Raymonda taught at Nazareth Academy from 1940-1966, principally in the Spanish Department.

Born in Rochester, Sister entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1909 from Holy Apostles Parish. She earned her New York Teacher's Certificate and was assigned to St. Stephen's School, Geneva and to St. Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School for a short time. In 1915 she was released from teaching to pursue studies at St. Elizabeth's College, New Jersey, where she earned the baccalaureate degree with concentration in mathematics and Spanish. She was then assigned to De Sales High School, Geneva, where she taught from 1918-1940. At that time, she spent a summer in Peru at the University of San Marcos, and later earned her master's degree in Spanish from Western Reserve University.

Surviving are a brother, Edward Nier of Pittsford, three sisters, Sister M. Georgetta, SSJ of St. Augustine's Convent, Mrs. Clarence Heiminger of Rochester and Mrs. John Nothnagle of Pittsford.

Joseph Albright, War I Veteran

Funeral Mass for John B. Albright was offered by Monsignor John M. Duffy in St. Augustine's Church, August 7. Mr. Albright of 94 Farragut St. died August 4, 1967.

He was a World War I veteran.

Surviving are his wife, Agnes Albright, one son, Nicholas, a daughter, Mrs. George (Ethel) Hastings; four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; a brother, Peter Albright; one sister, Mrs. Kate Schaefer, both of Ontario Center.

Ice Cream Social At Mt. Morris

Mt. Morris—The ladies organizers of St. Patrick's Church, St. Anne's, St. Lucy's and the Rosary Society are jointly sponsoring an Ice Cream Social to be held in the church parking lot, Wednesday, Aug. 16 starting at 5 p.m., according to Rev. Dominic J. Grasso, pastor.

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