

2003 JOSEPH GORTON AND "LEW" BADER NAMED TO THE HALL OF FAME

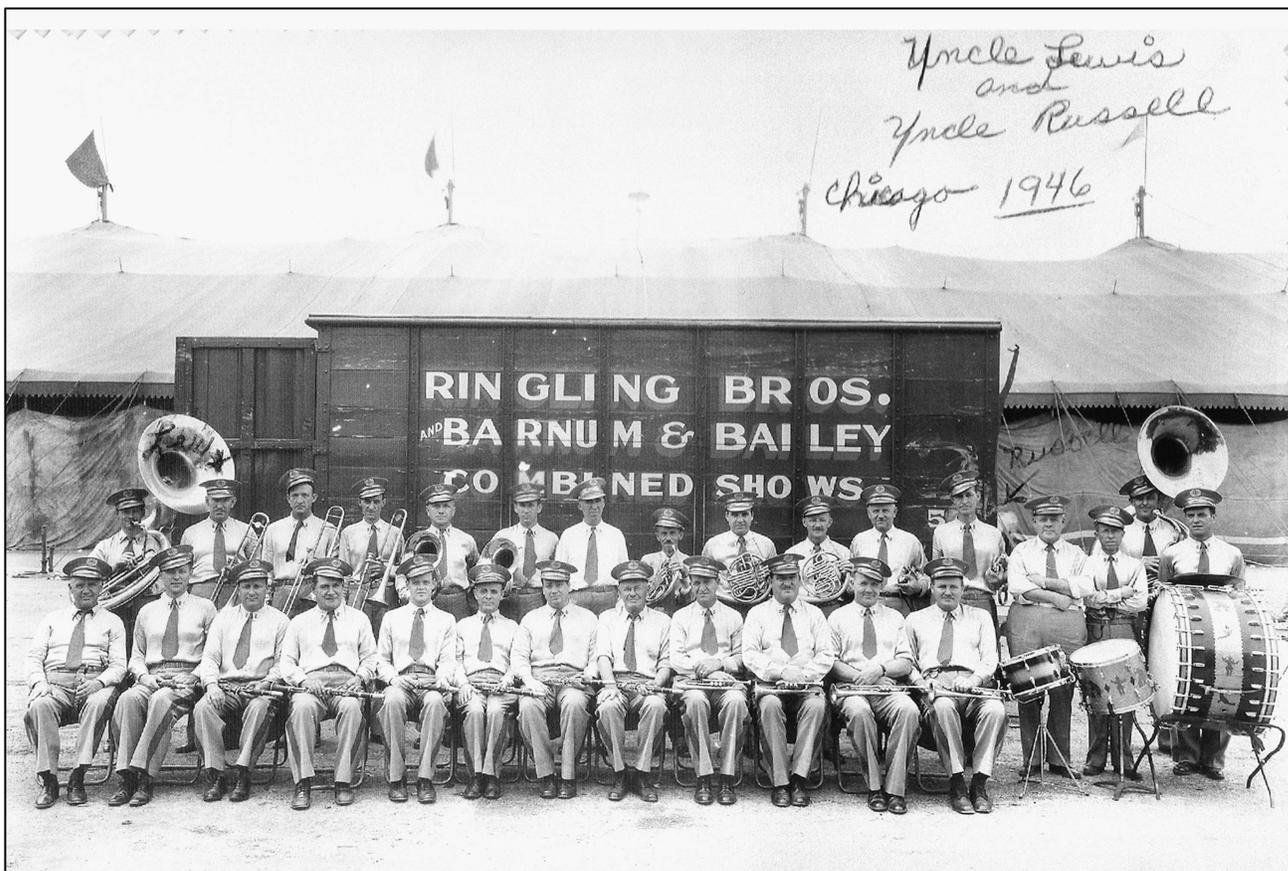
During the 2003 annual convention, Charles Conrad, chairman of the Windjammers Hall of Fame Award Committee announced that the committee had named Joseph Gorton and Lewis "Lew" Bader to the Windjammer Hall of Fame. The following is information on Lewis D. Bader compiled from articles published in the Circus Fanfare. This article also includes information on his brother and fellow RBBB musician, Russell "Rusty" Bader.

Lewis D. "Lew" Bader (1898-1977)

Lewis Bader was one of the great circus trombone players serving as Merle Evans' "right hand man" for three decades with the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus Band. He was born on October 1898 in Green Hills, Indiana and moved with his family to Greenville, Ohio near the state line.

Little is known of his early years and the first mention of him as a musician is with the 1921 Sells-Floto Circus Band. He joined Merle Evans' band in 1923, and stayed with Merle until he retired from the circus in 1955. In his 1971 biography written by Gene Plowden, Evans names Bader to his All-Star Circus Band, an ideal ensemble that would have Bader leading a trombone section that also included Stanley Czerwinski, Charley Duble, and Gene Miller.

Bader played in the orchestra for vaudeville shows during the off-season from the circus, joining his younger brother Russell, a cornetist who played with a number of circus bands. Lew was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. After several years of declining health, Lewis



Bader died on February 3, 1977 in Washington Court House, Ohio at the age of 78.

Lewis D. "Lew" Bader & brother Russell "Rusty" Bader - continued

Additional material on the **Bader Family Musicians** was published in the December 2010 magazine issue of the *Circus Fanfare*:

The stories and photos on the following pages of the Bader family musicians were submitted to Circus Fanfare by professional circus clown and all-around generally useful fellow, Ron Powell. He chanced upon meeting the niece to Lewis and Russell Bader and granddaughter of William Bader, who shared some of her memorabilia. Lewis Bader was placed in the Windjammers Hall of Fame in 2003. Mrs. Linda Mikel still lives in Springfield, Ohio, and we can only hope that she will share more stories of her family with us.

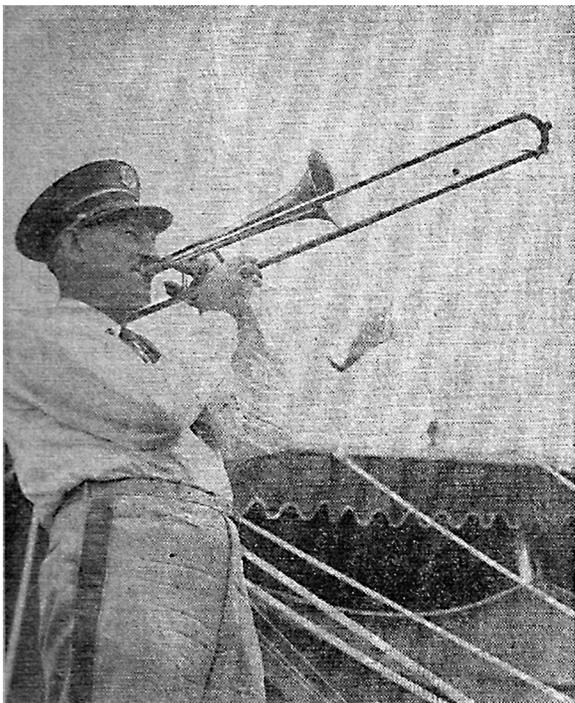


Photo - Lewis Bader of 212 W. Columbia Street, Springfield, Ohio, first trombonist in the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, will be home with his family for a time when the combined shows play in Springfield Sunday afternoon and evening. It isn't often the "big top" plays his hometown, so he plans to make the most of it.

Springfielder Will Visit Hometown on Circus Day

The arrival of Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus in Springfield is always an event in the lives of one local family. And this will be the case on Sunday, July 18 [1954] when the combined shows prepare for a day's stay at Jack's Corner on South Limestone Street.

On Sunday, Lewis Bader, trombonist in the circus band, will be in his hometown for the day. Bader, son of Mrs. Belle Bader, has been riding the circus bandwagon for more than 20 years. At least once each year he threatens to quit the nomadic life and settle down in Springfield where he spends his winters, but as each spring blossoms out, he gets the urge to be under the big top again.

"Once a trouper, always a trouper," remarked Percy Bader, brother. "Circus life is in his blood and he will never quit."

Lewis Bader began his circus life in 1922. There was a big carnival that needed a trombonist. Lewis decided that he was their man. Two years later he joined Ringling Bros. Circus and he has been with them since that time. Lewis is but one of the musicians in the Bader family. He is one of eight Bader children who play some musical instrument. The family moved from Lebanon, Indiana in 1917 to Springfield, and at that time already had a family band. Mrs. Bader played the piano, and their fiddle-playing father directed the band. Other siblings: Percy, trumpet; John of Detroit, clarinet; William, trombone; Mrs. Avis Graham (deceased) of Evansville, Ind., piano; Mrs.

James Fennessy, piano; Mrs. Glen Leichner, piano; and Russell, trumpet.

Russell Bader spent some years in circus bands too, but he has given up the roaming life for employment in the Washington Street liquor store.

Lewis will have more time with his family this year since he will arrive Saturday from Columbus, where the circus will play for two days and will pick up the show again for the Sunday Springfield performances. The "Greatest Show on Earth" will give two performances Sunday in Springfield at 2:15 and at 8:15. In order that everyone may visit the world's largest traveling menagerie, doors will open at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The route for the Circus starts Thursday [July 15, 1954] in Charleston, WV; Friday and Saturday in Columbus, OH, then Sunday in Springfield. Leaving Springfield the circus will be in Cincinnati on Monday and Tuesday; Lexington, KY on Wednesday; Jeffersonville, IN on Thursday; Evansville, IN on Friday; Paducah, KY on Saturday; and Marion, IL on Sunday [July 25, 1954].

[Reprinted from an unidentified newsprint article in Mrs. Linda Mikel's scrapbook; dates from the RBBB Route Book.]

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Lewis D. "Lew" Bader & brother Russell "Rusty" Bader - continued

LEWIS D. BADER – TROMBONE– Photo 1946

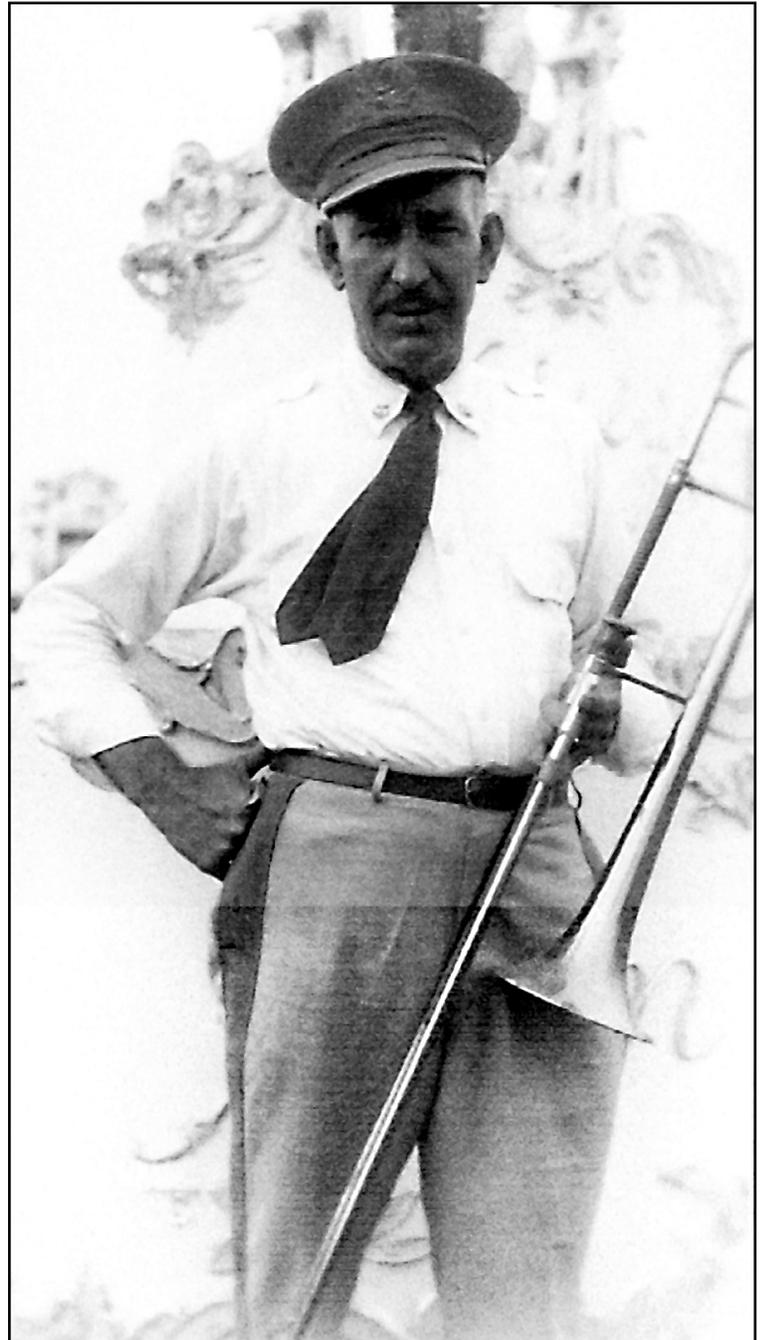
1946 RBBB Big Show Band from www.circushistory.org

Merle Evans, Conductor and cornet
Max Ring, Flute and Piccolo
Fred Dini, Clarinet
Raymond A. Jensen, Clarinet
John Shideler, Clarinet
Antonio J. Ramirez, Clarinet
George Oliva, Clarinet
Fred Dini, Clarinet
Ralph Gibbs, Clarinet
James Schlanz, Clarinet
Russell A. Bader, Cornet
Joseph R. Browning, Cornet
Philip Garkow, Cornet
James M. Downs, Cornet
Al Hiltensmith, Cornet
Joe Thorne, Cornet
Paul S. Davis, French Horn
Karl A. Shinner, French Horn
Frank W. Regan Jr., French Horn
Lewis D. Bader, Trombone
Hillis H. Hunter, Trombone
Andy Grainger, Trombone
James Bradley, Trombone
John Horak, Baritone
Clarence L. Bennett, Baritone
Clinton Evans, Bass
Joyce C. Kronk, Bass
Amos Thompson, Drum
Rollin E. Sherbundy, Drum
William E. Sten, Calliope

1946 RBBB SIDE SHOW BAND

Arthur A. Wright's Band and Minstrels

William Matthews, 1st Clarinet & Sax
Johnny Brown, 2nd Clarinet & Sax
Harry K. Franklin, 1st Trumpet
Clarence Williams, 1st Trumpet
Isaac T. Demby, 2nd Trumpet
M. O. Russell, 1st Mellophone & Sax
William E. Fields, 2nd Mellophone & Sax
Harvey Lankford, 1st Trombone
Oliver Pettaway, 2nd Trombone
Wm. Thomas, Baritone
Harrison R. Hall, Bass
Andrew Gibbs, Traps
Wesley Nettles, Bass Drum
Arthur A. Wright, Director & Trumpet



The 1946 Performance of the Greatest Show on Earth– Excerpts from the Route Book

Produced by Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. Staged by Robert Ringling and Pat Valdo.

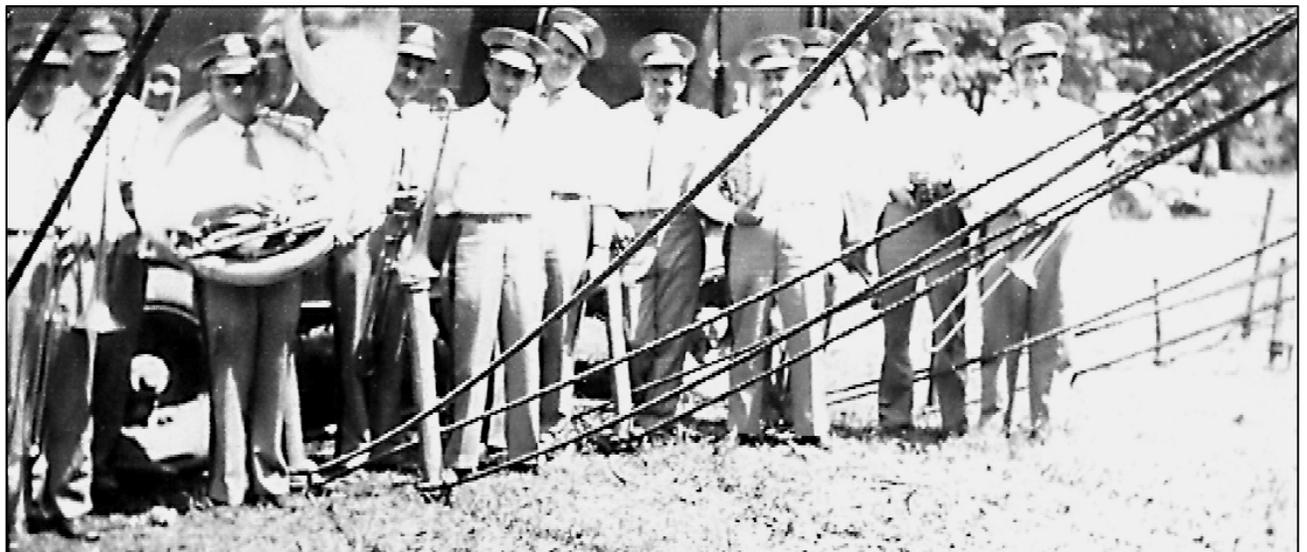
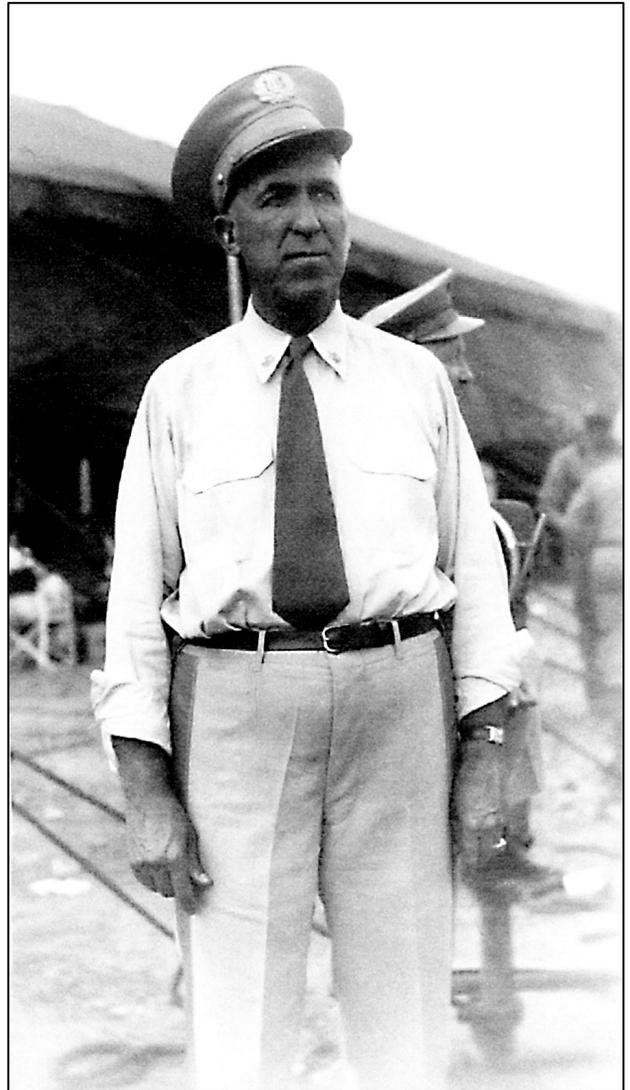
Display No. 7 - Toyland. Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus presents its 1946 super-spectacle designed for children of all ages. In which the well-loved, long-remembered toy playmates of the world's children come to life in cascades of color and hilarious characterizations with the whole extravagant procession climaxing in a surprise finale to awaken the happy dreams of childhood. [spec]

Display No. 14 - The Changing of the Guard. The most spectacular circus offering of all time. Great galaxy of glittering femininity and thundering herds of jungle-bred juggernauts in the magnificent new 1946 edition. [elephants]

Display No. 22 - Captains of caprice cavorting through a cataclysmic cavalcade calculated to compel convulsive cachinnations incomparable. A furious fun finale by the department of tomfoolery. [clowns]

Lewis D. "Lew" Bader & brother Russell "Rusty" Bader - continued

PHOTOS CA. 1946: LEFT- Lewis Bader-trombone;
RIGHT- Merle Evans, Bandleader & cornet;
BELOW- Members of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum
& Bailey Circus Big Top Band in the backyard.



Lewis D. "Lew" Bader & brother Russell "Rusty" Bader - continued

**RUSSELL A. BADER –
CORNET – Photo ca. 1946**

**1941 RBBB Big Show Band –
from www.circushistory.org**

Merle Evans, Conductor

Lew D. Bader, Trombone

Russell A. Bader, Cornet

Raymond Y. Brownell, Snare Drums

Stanley Czerwinski, Trombone

Garrett L. DeKay, Baritone

Clinton R. Evans, Tuba

Walter S. Foreman, Trombone

Philip Garkow, Cornet

Andrew Grainger, Trombone

Howard E. Ham, Horn

Peter M. Heaton, Organ

Henry D. Kyes, Cornet

Harry E. Nivens, Clarinet-Alto Saxophone

William H. Phoenix, Cornet

A. J. Ramirez, Clarinet-Tenor Saxophone

Max C. Ring, Flute-Piccolo-Alto Saxophone

Clayton E. Russ, Tuba

Jas. Schlantz, Clarinet-Baritone Saxophone

J. G. Sheppard, Clarinet-Alto Saxophone

Rollin E. Sherbundy, Bass Drum

Peter Staluppi, Horn

Anton Tonar, Clarinet-Tenor Saxophone

Frank Tonar, Clarinet-Alto Saxophone

Henry C. Werner, Cornet

1941 RBBB Side Show Band

Arthur A. Wright, Trumpet and Director

Johnny B. Brown, Clarinet & Saxophone

William Matthews, Clarinet & Saxophone

Clarence C. Williams, Solo Trumpet

Donald E. Officer, Solo Trumpet

Joe A. Browne, First Trumpet

Rufus S. Wiggs, First Mellophone

Wm. E. Fields, Second Mellophone

Edward Carr, First Trombone

Homer C. Griffin, Second Trombone

William Thomas, Baritone

Harris R. Hall, Bass

Elygie Shaw, Drum

Edward W. Warren, Bass Drum



FROM AN UNDATED CLIPPING- ca.1952 [Rusty Bader, cornet player, is now at home in Springfield, after a tour of the Keith-Albee Circuit with the Sioux Indian band. He will again be with the Sells-Floto Circus, making his fourth season with that show.]

1941 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Program– Excerpts from the Route Book

An hour's time is given patrons, before the performance begins in which to inspect the earth's largest traveling zoological collection with its almost priceless specimens from every clime. In the vast menagerie, **Mr. and Mrs. Gargantua, The Great**, the world's most publicized gorilla couple, are superb educational features. During the performance in **Display No. 5** - The most beautiful and appealing spectacle in circus history, "Old King Cole and Mother Goose," in which the beloved characters of the nursery rhymes are brought to life in cascades of color, beauty and splendor. Produced by John Ringling North. Created, designed and costumed by Norman Bel Geddes. Ensemble numbers arranged by Albertina Rasch.