

# CHAPTER I -The circus boys in dixie Land

In "The Circus Boys in Dixie Land," Chapter I titled "Under Canvas Again," we return to the adventures of Phil Forrest and Teddy Tucker as they embark on another season with the circus, now seasoned performers eagerly anticipating showcasing their talents in their hometown of Edmeston. Two years have passed since they joined the circus, transforming from local boys to respected members of the circus troupe, now earning sixty dollars each week—a sum they once could hardly dream of. As they sit under a maple tree near the bustling circus setup, they contemplate their future, with aspirations of one day owning a circus of their own, though Teddy fantasizes about a Wild West show.

Their conversation drifts from ambitions to immediate concerns, such as breakfast and the impending parade. Reflecting on their journey from novices to key performers, they reminisce about their previous seasons. Their initial forays in the ring and Phil's heroics, from saving a performer's life to preventing financial losses for the circus, marked their ascent within the circus community.

As they prepare for their show in Edmeston, they look forward to performing in front of their peers, proving their mettle. Phil dissuades Teddy from suggesting free passes for their classmates, highlighting the value of their performance. Meanwhile, Teddy reveals his secret project of training a donkey, hinting at a surprise planned for their homecoming show. Their camaraderie with each other and the circus owner, Mr. Sparling, is evident as they engage in light-hearted banter, revealing a blend of ambition, loyalty, and the thrill of circus life.

As performers settled into the rhythm of the traveling show, Phil and Teddy remain focused on their school and circus dreams, balancing education with their evolving

roles as entertainers. Through trials, triumphs, and the tight-knit community of the circus, "The Circus Boys in Dixie Land" sets the stage for another captivating season of growth, adventure, and the pursuit of dreams under the big top.

