



(Gazette Photo by David Graves)

Bill Doyle, left, graduated from Huntington High School in 1979 and ran away to the circus in 1981. On Thursday, Jeff Mathew, director of the substance abuse pro-

gram at Chillicothe Correctional Institute, got a taste of the circus when he and two other members of the Adelphi Band sat in on the 5 p.m. performance.

Huntington grad, trumpet run away with circus

By JANE MUSGRAVE
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Ever dream of running away and joining the circus?

Bill Doyle never once gave it a thought. Today, he's traveling with the Carson and Barnes Circus.

"I never even saw a circus before," the 20-year-old Huntington High School graduate said while preparing for Thursday's performance in a huge tent behind the Chillicothe Mall. "The only thing I ever dreamed of was playing my trumpet for a living. I was looking for a job. They were hiring."

When he told friends he was joining the circus, he said they told him he was crazy. "They told me the circus is for low life."

THE SON of William and Janice Doyle, of 2908 Black Run Road, said he found out differently.

"I thought it was going to be bad," he admitted. "But the people are just like everyone else. Sure there's some bad ones, but most are real nice people."

He learned about the job from Roger Carroll who played tuba with the circus band for three years. Carroll, 34, said he was Doyle's teacher and introduced him to the trumpet.

Carroll left the circus at the end of last year's season and is now working as a substitute teacher at Huntington High School. He was driven away from the circus by the price of gasoline.

"Inflation got to me," Carroll said. He said he had his own trailer and put gasoline in it himself. "I just couldn't afford to do it anymore."

BUT, HE SAID, he's ready to go back. "I loved it. I'm seriously considering going back next

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year."

Doyle has been traveling with the circus since March. Had he not gotten sick and been forced to take a month off he could have boasted of spending nearly every night in a different town and possibly complained of not having any days off except Easter.

Once the season starts, it's one night stand after another, except on rare occasions when the circus is booked into a big city for a week, he explained. There are no days off.

His living accommodations are less than luxurious, he said. He shares a trailer with 10 people. "That really sounds worse than it is. The rooms are all broken up. I live in the same room with two other guys."

He said he's enjoyed life under the big top and likes being out on his own and seeing the country.

ON THURSDAY, Doyle was joined on the band podium with three other local men. Three members of the Adelphi Band sat in for the 5 p.m. performance. John and Jeff Mathew and Ed Bennett asked if they could play with the regular band. Band leader William Reynolds agreed.

At least one was reported to have caught a mild case of circus fever.

As far as Doyle's future plans, he said he's not certain. When the season ends in mid-November, he said he will return to Chillicothe.

Next year? Who knows.