

RAMON ESCORCIA

Ramon's circus career went way back--to the Sells-Floto show in the teens. He played under Merle on the tented Ringling show of the 1950's. Also he had his own house band in New Orleans. He was a Bandmaster on Cristiani Bros. in 1958 and 1959; Sells-Gray in 1962 and 1963; Beatty-Cole in 1965; Mills Bros. in 1966, and was in the Beatty band under Chuck Schlarbaum in the 1960's through 1970, and back as Sells-Gray leader in 1973

through 1975. This photo is from 1966 when Ramon fronted the band on Mills Bros. Lloyd Fengel is on trumpet, front row, far left. Your columnist is on trumpet, sitting next to drummer Dave Mobbs.

Ramon's 7-piece band on the Cristiani show was outstanding, composed of all "white tops" veterans. The 1959 band featured Ramon and

Joe Stefan on trumpets---the best one/two punch I ever heard. He really knew how to program a "book" and was an excellent trumpet player. When you were on the bandstand, you definitely did things "Ramon's way"! I learned a lot from this dude. I last saw him on Sells-Gray in 1975. Well into his 70's he could still play one heck of a trumpet!

