

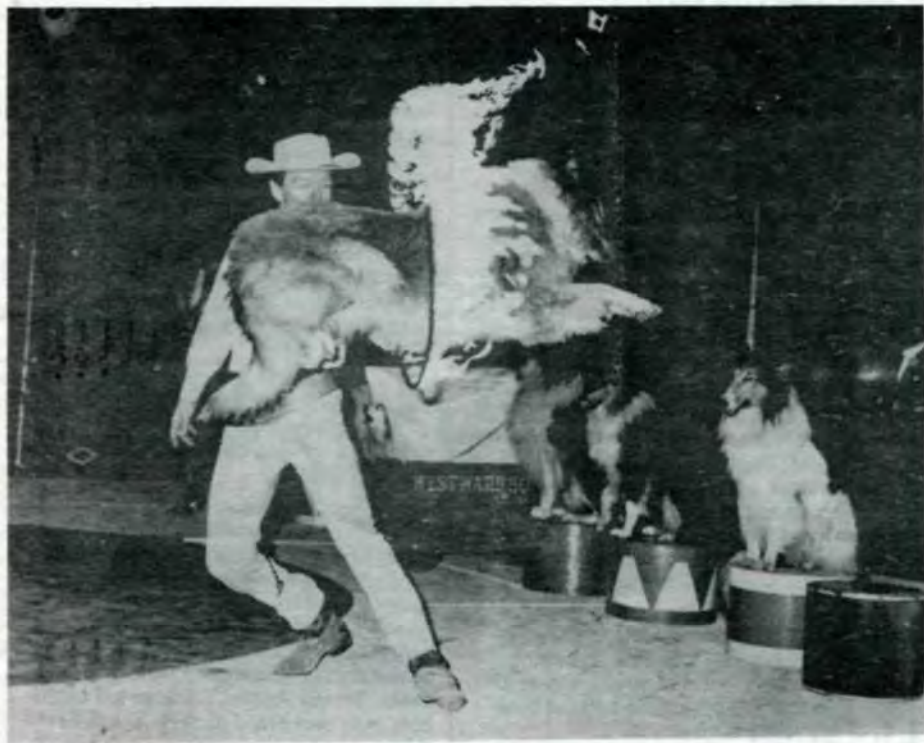
THE CIRCUS REPORT

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9th Year

Number 48

December 1, 1980



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REPORT

RBBB'S new 111th EDITION

The new 111th edition of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus (Red Unit) will make its debut at the Circus Arena in Venice, Fla., Jan. 1-4, offering eight performances.

From Venice, the new edition will move to St. Petersburg's Bayfront Center, playing in that city from Jan. 6 to 13th.

The new show will feature 16 acts, which are new, adding excitement to the other action-packed exhibitions of skill and daring. Five production numbers will contribute to the novelty of the program.

Produced by Irvin and Kenneth Feld, the show is resplendent with a \$3 million investment in costumes and special effects.

The world-renowned wild animal trainer Gunter Gebel-Williams, superstar and champion of the Great Steel Cage, headlines the show with dynamic mastery over tigers, leopards, panthers, pumas, horses and elephants. This season he will introduce another first in his incredible training repertoire: a 10 foot tall baby giraffe named Dickie.

Columbia's wire-walking Carrillo Brothers, Pedro and Luiz, specialize in spine-tingling sensations - dancing, leaping and jumping rope across a slender steel strand, strung 32 feet in the air - all performed without benefit of any safety devices.

A circus classic, the flying trapeze, has two troupes of able exponents - The Flying Farfans, featuring 17-year-old Gino, executing a three-and-a-half somersault, and the Flying Vazauz making their first bows with The Greatest Show on Earth.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530 - Phone: (415) 525-3332.

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Dolly Jacobs will perform graceful aerial gymnastics on the Roman rings; La Tosca, in her debut with the show, will execute a complex cloud swing act on a woven rope loop; Senor Juan and Senor Felipe will make their first appearance with the circus exhibiting expertise on the single trapeze; Marguerite Michele will juggle flaming torches while hanging by her hair at the top of the arena. The toreador of the low wire, Miguel Ayala, will strut, scamper and somersault across the quivering cable. Teeterboard titans - the Otto, the Boitchanovi and the Wozniak - will catapult from the springboard to build precipitous human pyramids that tower 30 feet in the air and stand six, and even seven persons tall.

For sheer nerveless dare-devilry, Victor Urias and Jose Medina will present a tour de force of motorcycle mayhem, criss-crossing their bikes on a collision course inside a metal mesh Globe of Death.

This season, children of all ages can enjoy two rings of the world famous Wally Naghtin Bears, presented by Wally Naghtin and his family. Other animal delights include tail-wagging wonders - The Lona's Dogs, Miss Anna's Russian wolfhounds and Eric Braun with his clever canines - all putting their professional paws forward in an array of lively antics. Mickey Antalek's chimps will contribute their own brand of mirthful monkey-shines.

Equestrian skills will be represented by Hen-

(Continued on Page 22)

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Circo Italia
Dec 4-7 Providence, R.I.

Circus a la Mode
Dec 7 Berkeley, Calif.

Kevin Hall Circus
Dec 2-24 Glasgow, Scotl'd

Monte Carlo Circus
Dec 4-8 Monte Carlo

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
Dec 3-14 Nassau, L.I.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Dec. 1 Canyon, Texas
2 Albuquerque, NM
3 Las Cruces
4 Tucson
5 Tempe
7 Los Angeles, Calif.

Wonderland Circus Revue
Dec. 1 Summerton, SC
2 Manning
3 Cameron
4 Elloree
5 Harleyville

---- MAGIC ----

Amazing Conklins
Dec. 1 Brighton, Mich.
2 Port Huron

Birchfield Magic
Dec. 2 Herlong, Calif.
3 Portola
4 Tahoe City
7 Verdi, Nevada

Magic Book Fair
Dec. 7 Oakland, Calif.

Pf. Miller Magic Time USA
Dec. 2 Richland Center, Wscr
6 Waukegan, Ill.
7 Belvidere

Tom Ogden
Dec. 1 Buffalo, NY

Peter Raveen
Nov 11-Dec 4 Montreal

Felix Snipes
Dec 5-6 Houston, Texas

--- OTHER DATES ---

Flight Into Imagination
Dec 1 Maywood, Calif.

3 Bell
5 Pico Rivera

Galactic Dragon
Dec 1-5 San Diego, Calif

Gutis Family
Dec 7 Hartford, Conn

Santa's Magic Sleigh - Red
Dec 1 Tustin, Calif.

2 Yorba Linda
3 Fullerton
4 Brea
5 Anaheim

Santa's Magic Sleigh - White
Dec 1 Laguna Beach, Calif.

2 San Pedro
3 Lomita
4 Hawaiian Gardens
5 Torrance

Mr. Sensation
Dec 4-7 Providence, R.I.

The Sikorskys
Dec 1 Chicago, Ill

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DATELINE: Fort Worth - At the risk of flogging a Dead Horse, HERBIE WEBER did not after all cancel his air trip to San Francisco to play those one night stands for SID KELLNER's "Vaudeville" starring veteran comedian MOREY AMSTERDAM. When Herbie tried to cancel the trip because of the outrageous air fares Uncle Sid said "nothing doing," that he would reimburse Herbie. "I want you out here!" said Sid. So that's that. If the new tour is successful and indications are that it will be, then Sid plans a lengthy vaude tour in 1981. Only older performers will be used. Gee! Maybe I have a spot!

Weather in Ft. Worth continues to be beautiful as I write this column, in the high 80's every day and the forecast is this summer-like weather is to continue into early December. Those of us who must head north immediately upon termination of these dates are really going to feel the cold.

SNAPSHOTS: The Circus Vargas office trailer was damaged and the pickup pulling it was totalled just a few blocks from the lot when the show was leaving Bryan, Texas. CV closes around the first week of December in Arizona, will layover in that state for five weeks and then reopen. . . TANGER TROUPE to Chicago for Xmas shows and will be with the American Continental again in 1981. . . To Circo Atayde goes IRVING HALL, JEANNINE HALL (Javanna's Jungle Jamboree), the FLYING TORALBAS, KASSEL's BEARS, LOU ANN JACOBS, PIRATES OF THE SKY, POCO and SLO-POKE. . . JEANNINE HALL, along with the Bionic Godmother, will play Atayde's full season in 1981. . . CARMEN HALL is now married and sister JEANNINE is engaged and the Bionic Godmother is now a Bionic Grandmother as JIMMY HALL and his wife TEPA are proud parents whose child was born on Halloween - giving AURELIA a double trick AND treat! . . . SARA ZOPPE says "No way!" will son DAVIDE receive the Son of the Year Award. This time, she tells me (confirmed by BETTY HUBER) that Davide locked her OUT of her own trailer! Davide says it isn't true, but you know me, I love to believe the worst!

FLYING LANES are now kaput. Pat is with an airline and DAVE and PATTI will settle either in Florida or in Houston and NOT in California as I reported earlier. It's a damn shame this troupe had to split up. It was a beau-

tiful flying act . . . Working concessions in Fort Worth were Red Hartman, Don Bashman, and Pat Davison. . . The LES MOINES will also go to Circo Atayde for the Christmas date in Mexico City. . . TITO GAONA and Troupe are now in Columbia for a unit of Circo Union. Show opened there in Oct. . . Acts at the Baton Rouge Fair for EDDIE ZACCHINI included JOANNE and PEE WEE PINSON, HASINI, ADELE & GORY, THE FLYING LANES and clown DENNIE PINSON. Music was provided by LEO MASCITTO and STEVE LOCKWOOD.

Word is that after a number of years GENE RANDOW will be back on the Texas dates in 1981 and that BLINKO and MARAN will take a leave of absence from Circus Circus in Las Vegas to also make their long-awaited return. . . WALT KING was injured when he was caught between two elephants. I don't have the full story yet, but will tonight; deadlines, however, won't wait and so I'll fill in the details in my next column. . . BARBARA TATA is out of the hospital. A lung was punctured, I understand, and doctors feared she might contract pneumonia.

JOHN CUNEO was on tap when DIETER was suffering from a badly abscessed tooth and worked the baby elephants for several performances. It didn't take John long to get back into the swing of things and I rather suspect he was enjoying himself. . . WAYNE REGAN is reportedly going to a park in Japan next season. . . WADE BURCK is starting a book on his experiences as a tiger trainer. . . BILL GOLDEN, on hand in Ft. Worth with the Carden-Johnson bulls, joins the Hanneford Circus Dec. 15th to take over the tiger act. . . DOREY MILLER showed up one night to visit and catch part of the show enroute from Brownsville where he and the men who were with him (didn't catch their names) saw Circus Vargas. . . SATANI DEMON is giving JIMMY DOUGLASS a run for his money when it comes to collecting anti-gues. I saw an ancient wagon wheel under his trailer and a gramophone in it, along with a beautiful brass gong supported on a great wooden gallows. Wade Burck accused the manipulator of going from mad, mad, mid-Victorian embellishments to "Death Valley Days" and that ain't all - one night when Wade, Satini, Rex and Sandy were having

(Continued on Page 24)

THE
WORLD'S
LARGEST
CIRCUS

CLYDE BEATTY-COLE BROS. CIRCUS

Richard
Duller

BY DON SANDMAN

The new indoor version of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus played a 5 day stand in Cincinnati Gardens in Cincinnati, Ohio, Nov. 5 thru 9th.

The circus received nice coverage in the Cincinnati Enquirer. A full page of pictures and a write up in the Your Weekend section as well as photos on the front page - Barrie Sloan, stilt walker, Walt Logan with three bulls performing at Fountain Square. The TV stations also carried the Fountain Square show.

The city in some areas were well papered, although there were sections of the city which had no paper at all. The western part of the city, especially, was blank. TV, radio and other spots were used frequently.

Ten performances were given and the prices ranged from \$5.00 to \$7.00. Half price tickets were distributed for the opening program and group sales offered \$1.50 off the regular price for groups of over 25 people. Also, a newspaper ad ran two weeks before the show which gave people \$2.50 off the price of tickets if they ordered with the coupon before Oct. 26th.

The performance as presented in Cincinnati was as follows:

Circus overture by Russell Darr and the circus band; Flags of our Nation spec with all performers; Ring 1 and 3, aerial perch with the Flores Duo and aerial cradle by the Munoz Sisters and in center ring the Albarracines aerial cradle; Johnny Welde and his Dancing Bears; Clowns; Las Verdus, rolling globes; Popeye, Olive Oyl and Bluto, live cartoon characters; Mary Ruth Herriott, poodles; Albanis aerial speedway motorcycle and trapeze (4 people); Clowns; The Flying Alvarez and the Flying Lantons; Clowns; Cemon's Chimpanzees; Clown Spec with the children from audience participating and it

(Continued on Page 28)

BY JOHN D. WEINHOLD

Many things about the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus' new indoor production are impressive. The show opened for the first time in Pittsburgh (Pa) Civic Arena on Oct. 29 for a five day stand.

Never have I seen the Arena's parking lot as full of show trucks and performers trailers as I did for this show. Never have I seen as much aerial rigging, both ground mounted and ceiling hung. Best of all, the quality of the show was superb.

The opening spec drew an audible gasp from the audience when the house lights were darkened and the arena was lit by about 5,000 feet of Italian lights hanging from the overhead rigging and the show's facade which is built around the performers entrance.

While not as elaborate as the Ringling specs, the Beatty-Cole specs were impressive in a sedate manner. Good taste and imagination were evident. The Grand Entry parade was staged as a parade of nations, the performers being introduced by their native nations rather than by their act's name and they followed their native flag as they paraded into the arena. The spec which closed the first half took the form of an aerial ballet using ladders rather than webs and with a musical theme I still cannot get out of my mind. The children's participation number which preceded it showed imagination on the part of the production staff. Jimmy James, as a singing ringmaster, was a delightful surprise.

The flow of the show was smooth and rapid. The prop hands changed props quickly and quietly without distractions. As this was a new production, some rough spots were apparent, but during the run of the show there was evidence that these were being corrected. This production has the appearance of a sizable investment.

Although some of the acts did appear in the

(Continued on Page 30)

MAILBAG

FROM LARRY RECORDS

The 1980 season was a banner year for Benson's Wild Animal Park, Hudson, N.H. Crowds and revenue were up considerably as the new owner, Arthur Provencher, continued improving and expanding the park. Many new animals were acquired, including a white rhino, plus a population explosion with more births and hatchings than ever before. Tigers, Jaguars, pumas, bears, elk, deer, llamas, antelopes, monkeys and numerous birds, entered the world at the park this summer.

The zoology department, under the direction of Pat Quinn, has greatly improved the care and well being of Benson's animals. Instituting modern techniques in care and husbandry, Benson's is now one of the finest zoological collections in the Northeast and shall continue to grow.

There were several rides added this year, including paddle boats, a giant slide and a ferris wheel. All rides are included in the admission price with the exception of elephant and camel rides at 75c each.

A major feature of the park is the solid line up of entertainment. With each show presented three times daily there is always something going on. Featured were Roland Tiebor with sea lions, Larry Records with elephants, Carmen Hall with baboons, Frank Mogyrosi with tiger and comedy lion, a magic show, educational animal lectures and a daily parade. The parade, managed by David Struckfuss, of Illinois, included an antique fire engine, small floats, big heads, guest bands, elephants, horses, camels, llamas, ponies, tigers and R. W. Commerford & Son's calliope.

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The elephants played an expanded role this year. In addition to the shows they now give public rides, are in the parade and swim in Benson's lake each day. They will also load in a truck now and will be available for winter engagements in New England and New York.

A baby female African was added to the herd in late August, and she is coming along well. She has been named "Jackie II" after the late crippled elephant which started Arthur Provencher in the business.

Perhaps the most popular animal attraction is "Colossus", a truly magnificent silver-backed Lowland gorilla. In his elaborate private building near the main gate he is usually the first attraction the public visits.

Mr. Provencher plans to continue to expand the park with more animals, rides and shows. This year for the first time Benson's will be open for a Christmas season, Nov. 1 to Jan. 1, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Featured is an extensive light display, hay rides and the elephant show.

Carmen Hall will be returning for the 1981 season. Frank Mogyrosi left on Nov. 1st and Roland Tiebor has retired from sea lion training after 17 years at Benson's.

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REPORT

HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS

BY LARRY KENT

Hoxie Bros. Big Top Circus closed its 1980 tour in Deerfield Beach, Fla. (just north of Fort Lauderdale) on Nov. 9th, under the auspices of the local Shrine Club. It was a two day stand with all four shows well attended. Hoxie Tucker was on hand for the final date and termed the 1980 tour as being (quote): "... one of the craziest years I've ever had." The 1980 season saw two full-scale blow-downs, truck wrecks and the defection of some key personnel.

They finished-up using a former Beatty-Cole oblong top, the original Hoxie round-top having been destroyed in a mid-summer blow-down.

The year started with 7 elephants in the Hoxie herd. In Louisiana, "Hazel" was donated to a local zoo after she went down and was unable to get up. Several days later, after the show had moved on, word was received that she had gone down at the zoo and had to be disposed of. That left 6 bulls: Bonnie, Janet, Kelly, Stacy, Hoxie and Irene.

"Dutch" Crawford left the show in mid-summer, and the elephant act was taken over by Teddy Swerksy. It is not known if he will return for the 1981 tour. Others leaving the show before the season was completed included Bill Brickie, Walt and Millie Stimax, clown Jim Jackson and the Loyal-Repensky riding act.

Veteran Hoxie performers Chuck and Dana of "The Lissner Duo" will also not be returning for the '81 tour, as they are already signed with Tommy Hanneford.

Performers on hand for the home-run date included the Campa Family, Joe Lee, Leanne Stephans, single trap act, Stevens trained

dogs, Les DuBois, juggling act, Teddy Swerksy with bulls and pony drill, Carlos Campa, Jr., clown.

Midway had Roger Boyd Jr's side show/managerie, Mel Silverlake's Giant Snake Show, show-owned Himalayan Monster pit show, a grease joint, elephant ride, novelty stand and Mike McMahon's floss stand.

Staff: Joe McMahon, general manager; Donna McMahon, office manager; George Hodgdon, tickets; Tom "Stash" Quinn, lot boss; Lee Maloney, band leader; Roger Boyd, Jr., side show boss and big show announcer; Mel Silverlake, concessions and snake show, and John Marshall, 24 hour man.

The last day saw a center ring wedding between longtime Hoxie Bros. lot boss 'Stash' Quinn and Miss Jane Minnick. Jane is a former performer who has had the backyard 'pie car' for the past two seasons. The wedding was quite elaborate, with Lee Maloney playing traditional music on the organ, a choir composed of six performers, catered food and beverages for the guests, the bride in a beautiful long white gown and matching veil, and well attended by local newspaper photographers.

The bride and groom left the center ring riding on an elephant while flashbulbs "clicked". The newlyweds will live on Key Biscayne, Fla. during the off-season, just a few miles from Miami winter quarters.

Plans for 1981 are not certain, except that Hoxie Tucker is giving serious thought to perhaps returning to a cage act.

Visitors on closing day included Phil Boyer from Atlanta, Ga., and former Hoxie cat trainer Mike Cecere, who is now with Jungle Larry's in Naples, Fla.

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Wedding

BOBBY JOHNSON and his beautiful bride **BEVERLY**, were married in the Candlelight Chapel in Las Vegas, on Sept. 26th.

After the ceremony, Roland and Rosalinda Kaiser held a reception in their home, which was followed by a banquet at **Andres French Restaurant**. The famous chef Andre, from the **Sands Hotel** and owner of the restaurant, designed and decorated the cake.

Betty Escalante was the maid of honor and **Roland Kaiser** was the best man.

The Johnson's spent the first part of their honeymoon at the **Imperial Palace Hotel** and then went to the **Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus**, for the rest of the honeymoon.

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In Memoriam

DAVID W. BLANCHFIELD, "The Deacon of Circus Fame," died Nov. 13th at the Veterans Home and Hospital, Rocky Hill, Conn. He was 91 years of age.

He was superintendent of the Truck and Tractor Dept. of **Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus** during its canvas days and later served as trainmaster when the show went into buildings. Later he was associated with the **Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisc.**,

When his health failed in 1971, he was admitted to the **Veterans Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill, Conn.**

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REPORT

CHRISTMAS UNITS

Four Christmas units, operated by Fantasy Engineering, a subsidiary of the Royal Crown Circus Corp., are presently working in Southern California. All four units opened their holiday tour on Nov. 10th and two of them will close just prior to Christmas, while the other two will continue until late January.

The units are designated as: Santa's Magic Sleigh (Red Unit) with Jack Halloran, manager and James Hathaway, senior technician; Santa's Magic Sleigh (White Unit) with Francis Farmer, manager and Sam Johnston senior technician. Both of these units include magic, circus and variety acts.

The other two units are: Flight Into Imagination, a science fiction spectacular with Ron Hill, manager and Lee Bedford, senior technician; and Galactic Dragons, featuring magic, sword and sorcery, science fiction and laser, with Phil Stevelman, manager and Richard Walker, senior technician.

PEOPLE

FRED LAVINE, clown, has retired from full time clowning on the road, but he hopes to continue his clown work for "local" dates. He is presently employed by Northrop Electronics in El Segundo, Calif.

BILL GREEN, circus fan and historian, has moved to the Good Samaritan Center, at 1306 South 9th St., Room 306, Beatrice, Nebr. 68310.

MARK ANTHONY, clown, is featured in the Roach Transfer Co.'s 1980 catalog, where he is called "The Godfather of Foam Rubber Props."

W. E. (Shotgun) PAGE, former show owner, visited with **DOREY MILLER** and other folks when the Carson & Barnes Circus played in his home town (Sept. 27) of Russellville, Ky.

REX WILLIAMS, elephant trainer with Circus Vargas, was hospitalized on Oct. 4th for a series of tests due to severe headaches and neck pains. He was released two days later and the cause was not diagnosed. Since then he has returned to normal work.

JOE McKENNON, author of several circus books including "Circus Lingo" visited the State Fair of Texas on Circus Day and Clown Day at the fair.

IRVING HALL, comedy unicyclist and cir-

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cus clown, comes from nine generations of circus performers on his mother's side and three generations on his father's side.

BEROSINI's Orangutans were featured on the Mike Douglas TV Show which was aired on Nov. 17th.

WALLY NAGHTIN will have two rings of performing bears on the Ringling Red Unit for the 1981 season.

RAUL PRADA was beaten and robbed in an elevator of his hotel in Houston, Texas, during his visit to the circus in that city.

REX YOUNG is producing clown with the Shrine Circus at Fort Worth. The alley also includes: **SANDY YOUNG**, **DON** and **JO YOUNG** and **IRVING HALL**.

DON FRANCIS, circus historian, reports he is no longer connected with the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisc.

THE SENSATIONAL LEIGHS, giant space wheel act, are appearing in Berlin, Germany.

They just recently completed a tour with Circus Knie.

MURRAY HILL reportedly has given his elephant "Onyx" to the zoo in Springfield, Mo.

HARRY ROSS, clown, reports he will be retiring at the end of the year, after 62 years in show business.

JERRY (Rosco) THORNEBERRY, JUDY (Lil Bit) THORNEBERRY, LANEA (Kimbo) RAMOS and SUSAN (Twinkie) WHITEWELL participated in the University of Texas at Arlington, Home Coming parade on Nov. 8th.

REPORT

SOME ADDED BEATTY-COLE NOTES

BY GALE AHRENS

Here are some additional observations of the Beatty-Cole Circus from Cincy.

There are 20 fewer show-owned trucks with the indoor show than with the canvas version.

The show uses 14 trucks, not the 13 as I reported. Thirteen are show-owned semis (most with diesel tractors) and one small covered rental truck. The rental truck (U-Haul in Cincy) was loaded with wardrobe, concessions, etc.

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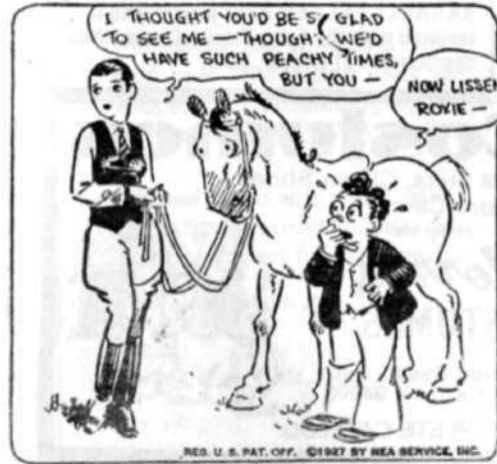
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Run down of show-owned semis is: Three bull semis, Hoover's cats, Mechanic, Cookhouse (tractor has old King generator mounted behind cab), Clown sleeper, Band sleeper, and No. 34, all from the tented show and four semis painted red, but unlettered which appear to have been reworked for the arena show. One electrical dept., one props and rigging, one celotex matting, props and sleeper, and prop hands and butcher's sleeper.

The show is gased enroute. Trucks are arrowed into Union 76 stations and drivers have Beatty-Cole credit cards.

In addition to the show owned units there are twenty some private campers, trailer rigs, RV's, etc. belonging to the artists, management, etc., traveling with the show.

SINCE ROXIE, WASH'S GIRL FROM HIS HOME TOWN, JOINED THE CIRCUS, HE'S BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THERE'S SOMETHING TO THE OLD SAYING OF TWO BEING COMPANY.



NEW BOOK

"CIRCUS LINGO" by Joe McKennon. Published by Carnival Publishers of Sarasota, P. O. Box 295, Sarasota, Fla. 33578 - \$5.25

This is a book that both fans and circus folks will enjoy and certainly it is one that should be part of any circus book collection.

The author offers some positive thoughts on the circus. He also comments on the managerial capabilities of some top showman, and his comments are interesting and well thought out.

The soft cover book also includes a great array of photos of tent shows, equipment, yes, even people and some general scenes. Many of the pictures will be new to the reader and none of them have been printed on a regular basis.

The book, of course, is devoted to the terminology used on circuses and carnivals from their early beginnings to the 1930's. The author hasn't attempted to list current day lingo and says "let the present day historians do that."

Readers will find here all the true terms used on shows and will learn how they came into being, and they'll add greatly to their knowledge of the circus!

MAILBAG

FROM TOM PICCARD

On Nov. 5th, Mark Anthony stopped to visit and then the two of us went down to the Ringling-Barnum quarters in Venice to see Lou Jacobs and Bobby Kay.

Little did we know that Lou was prepared to perform for the Clown College students. Everyone was surprised when he came in, in his little car. Up came the crowd for a standing ovation and it was a standing ovation for each of the gags.

He did the Echo gag, aided by Frosty Little and Peggy Williams. But the Hunting Dog routine with the dog in a rabbit suit brought tears to everyone's eyes. The little dog who replaced Knucklehead does a good job.

It was an evening never to be forgotten by the students at the college, and one for my scrapbook of memories. Thanks go to hard working Ron Severini for allowing me to share in the event.

PEOPLE

LINDA CARTER (Wonder Woman) is touring theatres in England with her own show. Also appearing with the show is magician TERRY SEABROOKE.

BARRETT FELKER is the juggler who is featured with the Foan Family Circus which operates out of Denver, Colo.

in the **NEWS**

NEW ZIP CODES

Along about February the United States Postal Service will expand the present five-digit zip code to a nine-digit number.

As a result, the 1.2 million zip codes now in existence will leap to a mind-boggling 19.8 million - and the directory will increase from a 1,900 page volume to a staggering 30,000 pages.

The original code will be separated from the additional four numbers by a hyphen; this new code will pinpoint with precision the block where you live and even the building you live in.

If the thought of all this makes you nervous, you can relax, a postal official explains that while everyone will receive the new and longer zip code by July, the new system is really designed to speed up the delivery of First Class and business mail. Letters that carry the old, shorter zip codes will still be delivered as usual.

FOR SALE

1949 RBBB route book, contains routes from 1919 to 1948, mint condition.

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IN MEMORY OF

JOHN TSILAK

Passed Away Sept. 22, 1980

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FRED RICKARD, well-known magical authority, slipped and injured his hip on Nov. 10 and is back in the Glendale Hospital where he spent so much time a year or so ago recovering from a stroke. After his recovery he was able to walk even without a cane, but his fall has set his recovery back a good deal.

A CHRISTMAS MAGIC AND BOOK FAIR will be held in Oakland's (Calif) Bjornson Hall on Dec. 7th (a day to remember). Staged by Magic Limited, the Magic Touch (Steve Dawson) and the House of Magic (Marvin Burger) it should draw an interested crowd of magic lovers.

Talks and demonstrations are scheduled by such authors as BARBI WALKER (Miniature Card Mysteries), DAVE FISCUS (Birthday Magian's Handbook), FRED FALTERSACK (Zany Zilly Zeudonyms), Dr. ROBERT ALBO (The Classics of Magic), GLENN GRAVATT (currently popular Thayer Instruction Sheet Series) and several others if time permits or scheduled authors are unable to appear. These include Dr. Frank Blaisdell, Arnold Furst, Gerald Kosky, Ormond McGill and the editor of Circus Report, Don Marks.

Admission has been set at a low \$3.00 with that ticket offering a stub for participation in a fabulous raffle of magic books and a \$2 discount on books purchased. A close-up session will include Paul Chosse, Arthur Murata, Steve Blencoe and J. P. Mac Namara.

The CHUCK JONES Magic Spectacular was held on Nov. 15th in San Gabriel, Calif. It gave magicians two big shows (that is the big Jones show and then Sigfried & Roy). The Jones show featured some 50 illusions, presented by this experienced and innovative performer.

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MAILBAG

FROM WILLIAM WOTSCH

I remember when Art Mix appeared in person at the Penn Square Theatre in Cleveland. This theatre was at the corner of East 55th and Euclid Ave., across from the Pennsylvania railroad station.

It wasn't an elaborate theatre or a real classy place, but just a movie house in the early '30 era.

Art Mix came on the stage with his horse. He did some rope spinning and talking with the kids. We kids wondered how he got his horse on the stage.

After the show some of us went to the back of the theatre and saw how he did it. The ground was almost even with the stage door and so it was no problem for the horse.

On the outside of the theatre there was a big board on legs which read "Today Art Mix in Person" not classy, but we kids got the message.

There was a railroad trestle or bridge over the corner and everytime a train pulled in or out of the station you could feel the tremor in the theatre. Sort of an added attraction.

FOR SALE

CIRCUS ARTICLES - National Geographic magazines: Oct. 1931 - \$6; March 1948 - \$5; March 1972 - \$3 - postpaid. Free Search service for animal or circus books.

N. STOWE

1841 Riverside Drive, No. 11

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Wedding

CHRIS BRUNO, a former performer and presently working at the Ringling Museum of Art, and **MARJORIE LANREZAC**, whose father is a circus ringmaster in France, were married in Sarasota, Fla., on Nov. 15th. A reception following the wedding was held at the Showfolks Club in Sarasota.

PEOPLE

BIRCHFIELD the Magician provided magic for a special Halloween promotion at the Meadowood Mall in Reno, Nev.

JOANNE and **PEE WEE PINSON** worked at the Baton Rouge, La., circus for **EDDIE ZACCHINI** and then dashed off to work the *Bozo Show* in Chicago.

JACK MESTER's model circus and carnival were exhibited in Southern California last month as a special library feature.

ALICE the Clown has been working a hardware store chain, presenting magic as a part of the coming holiday promotional activity.

RBBB (Continued)

ry Schroer, Miss Kora and 18-year-old Miss Tina Gebel, daughter of the wild animal wizard Gebel-Williams, when they put three groups of prancing liberty horses through their paces.

There will be five new razzle-dazzle costume spectaculars, including a turn-of-the-century Circus Parade in which 42 youngsters from the audience ride in old-fashioned touring cars as part of the pageant. In the rousing opening production, complete with sparkling champagne effects, the whole cast is introduced and, in turn, toasts the audience; an aerial ballet is a colorful Gilbert and Sullivan-style sailor's hornpipe; a jungle-themed elephant production visits darkest Africa and in the lively finale, circus citizens celebrate the happy life they lead.

Singing ringmaster Kit Haskett is the musical narrator, a score of beautiful showgirls is featured in the production spectacles and dozens of clowns, led by venerable funster Lou Jacobs, will punctuate every performance with zany comedy.

A SPECIAL THANKS

to

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HAVING WORKED WITH SUCH
A BEAUTIFUL PERSON**



dinner, Satini asked Wade for a light and Wade's rebuttal was "to the keeper of the Flame" - "Spit on it!"

WHODUNIT: Who, everyone is wondering put a hand made sign on one of the elephants during the banner walk in San Antonio which read "See Circus Vargas." I wasn't there so I haven't the foggiest but the sign sure got a fast blackout and the clowns who were coming on almost got clobbered by elephants emerging in the dark (for those of you who don't know CV was day-and-dating the Shrine Circus on the weekend). . .Saw ANN PIKE visiting (with a new boy friend) and acting as perky as always. . .Other visitors up to this column time were Dorey Miller, Joanne and Pee Wee, Miss Loni, Barbara Van, Carlos Obando, Peggy and Joe Zoppe, Howard Suez, Joe Lemke, Myna Moon, Joanne and Marvin Varner, Aurelia Hall, Nini Hall, Glen, Ethel and Shirley Henry, Billy Rogers, Gene Rando (who says Vivian is fine and will visit in Dallas), Checkers & Patches, Joe Schmidt and Bob Stoddard.

MORE NEWS: I have been wondering what ever happened to NATE LEWIS and Gene Rando informed me that Nate, one of the truly great circus announcers, died of cancer in California nearly two years ago. Other news is that ART BARRETT will man the concession team on the Castle Circus in 1981. Gene was joking with me in the dressing room and recalled the time TOMMY HANNEFORD invited Gene to join the Hanneford Circus. 'But' chuckled Gene, 'when Tommy said he'd treat me like one of the family, That's when I decided to stay with Tarzan!'

I SHOULD like to take this opportunity to

thank J. TOM SHELTON, producer of the Ft. Worth Shrine Circus and his publicity director, shriner Mr. McDANIELS for putting me onto author, sportswriter and sportscaster MILT HOPWOOD who opened the doors in Texas for my book with a sensational story and rave review, plus important introductions. Just prior to that Bobby succeeded in placing my book in BARBERS, the biggest and oldest bookstore in Ft. Worth where it was prominently displayed in the window with pictures and publicity where it was featured in their Mystery Section OVER all other hardcover mysetery books by such greats as P. D. James, Agatha Christie and Ruth Rendall.

Next week I do my first major autograph party at the store (over 500 invitations have been mailed) and do a followup in Dallas. Also it looks like the Libraries in Texas have accepted my book which means that although sales have been good all along, the mass market is now being cracked. So, again my thanks to Mr. Shelton and Mr. McDaniels, the very FIRST shriners down here to really do anything for the book.

EVERYONE has been curious about that new circus in Canada (and no one more than me). Finally I acquired a promotional brochure (and a beauty!) on the show from which I will quote. If they live up to half of what they proclaim it should be one helluva great show! So, here goes, and remember, everyone, I am QUOTING:

The show is called Circus Tivoli, subtitled "Canada's Circus" and is produced by Cantour (National Artists and Attractions, Ltd). The show is to bow in April, a one-ringer with a European top made in Italy. Everything is bright, new and unusual. The com-

(Continued on Page 26)



pletely fenced circus grounds has an ingeniously designed front built on three large highway trailers. Visitors watch the electric power being generated in a glass-walled generating station before entering through an elaborate traveling box office complete with theatre-like canopy. A covered lobby welcomes the public with Guest Relations Centre, Snack Bar, is clean, colorful and brightly lit, and the promenade to the inside is enhanced with banners and portable greenery. (All of the above is taken directly from the brochure). The show will use usherettes for its 2,552 seats - comfortable moulded plastic seating along with ringside loges.

Apparently a goodly amount of foreign talent will be used including a hand balancing duo from Poland, bears from Austria, gymnasts from East Germany and negotiations are underway for leading clowns from the People's Republic of China.

Shopping centres, malls, etc., will be played for extended engagements.

Special attention has been paid to the com-

PEOPLE

SAM THOMPSON, of Walnut Creek, Calif., displayed his model circus train as part of that city's model train exhibit last month.

fort of the performers who will have their own laundromat on the show. The show will also, like Vargas, have a comfort station on wheels with a section for the handicapped.

Well, it is just impossible for me to quote fully from this brochure. I don't have the space. I will add more in next week's column. All I have to say is it sounds fabulous, almost too good to be true, but I sure hope it is all true, and I would love to be on hand to see their opening night!

FORT WORTH has been a busy date with lots of visitors and lots of things happening. As usual I am doing this column mid-run, so I will have one more column from Fort Worth before doing the final column from Texas - the one in Dallas.

SEE YOU down the road, luvv.

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DON SANDMAN REPORT (Continued)

leads into aerial ballet with 12 girls on ladders and 6 dancing girls. Marie Christine and Miss Darlene on single traps and Senor Gabriel on cloud swing over center ring;

During Intermission as the arena is being set elephant rides are sold in an end ring and the clowns sell coloring books.

Dave Hoover's mixed cat act; Clowns; while cage is coming down the ground perch acts of Antonio and Julio and Los Argentinas, is presented; Al's Lemon-zeen (Fay Alexander) comedy car; The Wee Gets, balancing; Ring 1 and 3 teeterboard with Martin Trio and the Estradas Trio, while in center ring pole vaulting is presented by the Roberto Trio; Clown number; Fred Logan and family with elephant acts in all three rings; Aerial motorcycle presented by the Vashek Duo, followed by the Finale with all performers.

Jimmy James is the ringmaster and John Herriott is performance director.

Johnny Luxem and his Wheel of Death didn't perform in Cincinnati as he was injured at Pittsburgh and it was hoped he would return to the show at Lexington.

The band is augmented by a sound mixer and tapes with vocals.

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in the NEWS

STUNTWOMAN DIES

Bibi Astie O'Deal, president of the Hollywood Stuntmen's Association, and the holder of 37 world stunt records, died Nov. 14th at Hollywood, after spending a week in a coma, following a bad fall from a roof.

O'Deal, 40, a native of France, died of head injuries working on a TV show, where she was to fall off the roof of a house onto an airbag. She hit her head in the fall and was knocked unconscious.

STRIKE CANCELS BULLFIGHTS

A strike by the union of picadors and banderilleros forced the cancellation of all bullfights in Mexico this past week.

A union official reported the strikers were demanding a 30% increase in their fees. Under the system, the matador pays members of his entourage on a complex percentage basis, and their wages vary widely.

King Kong Zoo

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JOHN WEINHOLD REPORT (Continued)

canvas run of this circus, this is not a rehash of the canvas show.

Most of the acts left a vivid impression with me. Among the acts that stand out in my memory are such as the *Vashek Duo* performing most of their aerial motorcycle act over part of the audience, the Albanis doing their usual flawless performance, the Verduz keeping the audience involved during their rolling globe routine, the fantastic balance of the *Wee Gets* and *Johnny Luxem's* always thrilling performance on his *Wheel of Death*.

In addition to the above, the following acts also appeared: The *Flores Duo*, The *Albaracines*, the *Munoz Sisters*, *Johnny Welde*, the *Robertos*, the *Appollos*, the *Flying Alvarez*, the *Flying Lantonys*, *Cemon's Chimpanzees* (who will be replaced by *Carmen Hall* and her *Baboons* after Dec. 25), *Marie Christine*, *Senor Gabriel*, *Miss Darlene*, *Dave Hoover*, *Fay Alexander*, *Antonio and Julio*, *Los Argentinas*, the *Herriotts*, the *Martin Trio*, the *Ayala Troupe*, the *Estradas* and *Fred Logan*.

Although the music was not traditional cir-

acts

Acts appearing the circus produced by *Eddie Zacchini* at *Baton Rouge, La.*, Oct. 23-Nov. 2, were:

The *Flying Lanes*; *Adele & Gory*, gorilla act; *Hanzini*, sword balance; *Dennie Pinson, Jr.*, clown; *Wilson's dogs and pony*; The *Pinsons*, cradle; *Gary Strong*, announcer; *Leo Mascitto*, band leader; *Steve Lockwood*, drummer, with *Clara Mascitto* stooging for *Adele & Gory*.

The show's guest star was *Lou Ferrigno*, who plays *The Incredible Hulk*.

cus music, the show was well scored and the band, under the direction of *Russell Darr*, presented the score well. The show has an 8 piece traveling band which is supplemented by local musicians as conditions warrant.

The production staff consists of *Tom Scallen*, *John W. Pugh* and *Timothy Stinson*, producers and directors; *Willy Bietak*, associate producer; *Dick Friesen*, musical director; *Lynne Morris*, staging and choreography; *Don Gohen*, lighting; *Sandy Ampon*, costume design and *John Herriott*, performance director.

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Work with in-house Printing Department on design of tickets, passes, brochures, posters, billboard sheets, programs, novelty items, and Hi-detail poster-art coloring books.

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