



5th Year

November 1, 1976

Number 44

HORSES SHOT

Authorities are investigating the death and injury of the famous Clydesdale horses that are owned by Anheuser-Busch, Inc. The animals have been featured in the firm's advertising campaigns throughout the world, and make regular personal appearances at fairs, celebrations, etc., in the U.S.

A company spokesman said that one Clydesdale was shot and killed, while of the animals had been wounded at the company's breeding farm near St. Louis, Mo. The

animals, he said, were found in a pasture when workers arrived in the morning to feed and care for them.

OK Season

"We're pleased with this year's operation," says Wayne Franzen, whose Franzen Bros. Circus closed its 1976 season on Sept. 27th.

A small caliber weapon was apparently used in the shooting, the police said. All of the horses were in foal.

(Continued on Page 14)

Guards have been put on duty at the farm on an around the clock basis.

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Shrine Date

The program presented for the Shrine Club at Houston, Texas on Oct. 5-17 included:

Circus on Parade, spec; Troyana, slide for life; Guy Gossing, tigers; Aerial Display with Miss Olinka, Wanda Ward, The Burketts, Ceri Troy and Francone Duo; Rex Young, comedy car; Roman Schmitt, elephant and rhino; Clowns; Wire Display with the Rianos Duo, Dynamic DeMille and Mr. Raymond; the Los Argentinos, Gauchos; Animal Display with Schmitt's elephant and llama, Rosaire's Chimps and Gibb's camel and llama; Satani Demon, fire, followed by intermission.

The Clowns; Gilda's leopards; The Flying Valentines; Clowns; Trampoline display with the Wazzans, the Canestrellis and Cristianis; Gene Mendez, high wire; Sir Victor Julian, dogs; Zoppe's Arabian Riders; Balancing Display with the Volvos, revolving ladder and Armando, juggling, plus the Canestrellis on unsupported ladders; Clowns; Elephants - Bobby Gibbs, Tony Diano and Cristianis; Finale.

It's Dangerous

Officials in Nairobi (Africa) report it is dangerous to live in Africa because of the wild animal population there. They say that last year animals in Kenya were responsible for the death of 29 people.

Lions reportedly killed 29 people, elephants killed 20, crocodiles killed two and a hyena killed one.

King Bros. Circus will wind up its current season at Chattahoochee, Fla., on Nov. 16th.

A good buffalo hide will bring as much as \$800 these days, while a good skull and set of horns is worth about \$75.

A girl in the flying act on the Hoxie Bros. Circus fell and was injured during a performance of the show at Greenville, S.C.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530.

SUBSCRIPTION: \$12.00 for the year.

ADVERTISING: Minimum ad \$2.50; Quarter Page \$5.00; Half Page \$10.00; Full Page \$20.00 (Color work is \$5.00 extra).

For The Garden

Once a week during its Chicago engagement RBBB's Blue Unit has offered its animal droppings to anyone who wanted it, as long as they brought their own containers. The circus calls it mineral-rich, organic fertilizer, which is superior to others because it has not been treated with chemicals.

Circus officials report they were surprised at the response, for hundreds of people showed up to fill their sacks, cans and cartons. Every one of them, says a spokesman, is a green thumb gardener, and it sure helps cut down on the estimated \$6000 cost of disposing of it via local scavenger services.

The green thumb folks use it for everything from lawns to fruit trees, to rose bushes and gardens. They all echo the same statement made by one woman, who said, "Everything in my yard and garden should grow better now."

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by
Don
Marcks

There's an old saying, something about that if Mohammad won't come to the mountain then the mountain should be brought to him. In a sense it sort of explains a situation that has developed between me and Circus Vargas over the past few years.

Everytime the show appeared within a reasonable driving distance it seemed something happened to prevent me from visiting them. Finally, show owner Cliff Vargas decided there was only one way to get me to his circus and so he brought it right into my home town (El Cerrito, Calif., Oct. 21-24). In fact the tent was just two blocks away and could be seen from the house.

Now there was no excuse for not seeing the show and my first visit to the lot, on opening day, brought some unexpected response. The front door people escorted me to the best seat in the tent and then saw to it that my every wish was fulfilled.

A million nostalgic memories raced through my mind as I sat there waiting for the performance to begin. There were thoughts of circus visits as a youngster, of touring on a small show, in rain, mud and sunshine. It was the excitement and anticipation that only a tented show can create.

Suddenly I was brought back to reality as the band played an overture and the first announcements were made. Then the performance got underway, and do you know what? It's a good show. One that runs smoothly and quickly, is well balanced and features some top-notch acts. The costumes and lighting are excellent and still they plan to make improvements for next year.

Show trucks are clean and neat. Practically every tractor unit is new - bought this year. The paved parking lot, on which the circus was set-up, was washed and swept each day and the tents were washed before they were put into the air.

The weather was good, with cool evenings. Business was better than was expected with folks coming from all over to attend the performance. This adds up to good crowds every day, with two turnaways.

Needless to say, I was once again bitten by

(Continued on page 14)

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PEOPLE

EDDIE DULLUM, clown, was recently re-hospitalized for two weeks and is now recuperating at the Malora Conv., Hospital (Room 10-B), 3801 East Anaheim St., Long Beach, Calif. - 90804.

CEMON'S CHIMPS, from Circus Vargas, were on the Mike Douglas TV Show this past week. The segment was filmed several weeks ago.

AL and **SUE DAWLEY** are visiting relatives in Key West (Fla.). On Dec. 5th they will be hosting a birthday party for Al's mother at Disney World.

JIM ELLIOTT operated a Spook House at a Detroit (Mich.) Mall for the Halloween season. This month he will have a merry-go-round at another Detroit shopping center.

KAY ROSAIRE now has six lions in her cat act. Last month she wound up an 8 week engagement at the Kingdoms Three Park in

Atlanta, Ga.

MARK ANTHONY, clown, was pictured in the Calif. Automobile Assoc., magazine's column of special events, which listed RBBB's Blue Unit dates on the west coast.

PAMELA ROSAIRE and her chimps, as well as **DERRICK ROSAIRE** and his horse, will be with the Hubert Castle Circus in 1977.

CLIFF VARGAS was the subject of special articles in the Oakland (Calif.) Tribune and the San Francisco Examiner on Oct. 24th.

HARRY ELLIS and **TOBY BALLENTINE** were guests on the Circus Vargas during its El Cerrito (Calif.) engagement. Also seen at the circus were several members of the Gatti Family.

HOVIE BURGESS has authored a book 'Circus Techniques' which explains setp-by-step how to do many circus acts.

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BILLY BARTON.....

TWO PROMINENT COLLEGES in the East are preparing special circus courses and sending students to Famous Hunt in '77. To leave the show will mean flunking out and losing credits, thus Famous Hunt is assured of a first class, young work force. "Naturally they'll be paid," says Marsha. The colleges? Well, I'm not permitted to name them as yet.

CIRCUS ODYSSEY, a new show formed by ED MIRCLEY, in association with RALPHI MIRANDA, is set to open in San Juan, Puerto Rico, for 3½ weeks followed by two more spots. Tour begins in late February. The WAZZANS, the GUTIS and Illusionists SCALZO & CO., are among the talent already inked.

Gorgeous **BARBARA WOODCOCK** informs me her sensational son, **BEN WILLIAMS**, is with the **BARTHOLO CIRCUS** in Brazil where he is presenting the late **JOHNNY CLINE's** elephants, combined with one already owned by the show. This circus bought the Cline elephants prior to Johnny's death. Ben went down on a 6 week contract with a 6 months option which was immediately picked up. Now, the circus wants Ben to stay on forever!

The G-M bulls, originally trained by **BUCKLES WOODCOCK**, and recently purchased by the **FELDS**, are at work on the Ringling show....That court suit, instigated and then dropped by **SID KELLNER** in Akron, gave **ALICIA MITZLER**, owner of a beauty salon who was involved, so much publicity, business at her salon has tripled! Speaking of publicity, **CIRCUS WORLD** has turned to "tours" and promotional tie-ins to hype attendance during the slack months. The idea has been so successful it will be retained.

The cradle team of **DONNA WILSON** and **BILL BANNISTER** are set for Xmas dates, same for **MOFFAT**, some for Hubler....**ALPHONSO MAGANA** and **LU ANN JACOBS** visited the Ringling show in Washington, DC enroute to Sarasota....**JOHNNY HERRIOTT** has been signed with the Red Unit as performance director - he will also be the head horse trainer.

TV REVIEW: The **GREAT HOUDINIS**, recently aired on ABC was a disappointment to magicians. While the performances were excellent, most of the film was taken up by the mother-son relation-

ship (marvelously played by **RUTH GORDON**) and Houdini's psychopathological "war" with Spiritualism. Very little of Houdini's "tricks" were exposed - which is probably just as well!

JUGGLING THINGS: Whirlwind manipulator **LOT-TIE BRUNN** has closed her season with **GATTI-CHARLES**, but returns in 1977.....Brother **FRANCIS** was forced to leave the Americana in Puerto Rico to have a hip operation in Paris. The operation went well, but Francis will be idle for six months.....**MICHAEL CHERRICK** is featured with the **SID & MARTY KROFT** show in Atlanta. He's set for an indefinite run.

A promoter for **ROYAL HANNEFORD** absounded with \$500 and then checked into a sanitarium - I wouldn't touch the rest of that sentence with a 30 ft. quarter pole!.....Informed sources tell me the **FELDS** have NO plans to put out a tent in '77. The reason being given is their knowledge of buildings does not extend to tents. Well, Sarasota AND both units are filled to overflowing with current and "ex" Ringling men who do! Very possibly, the **Felds** could change their minds before '77 is "all out and all over!"

GOOD READING: "CHARLIE GALLAGHER, MY LOVE", a Signet paperback by English Screenwriter **MAX CATTO**. First recommended by author **DARRYL PONICAN**, who told me the book had been purchased by actor **JAMES CAAN** for an eventual film. It's the saga of an Italian Circus stranded in the West in 1868. The book is difficult to find. Look for it in the "Western Section" of major book stores.

HARRY T. HUNT is touring a series of shopping centers starting in January. He just played the South Haven Mall in New Jersey. On the program were: **PETER LUVAS' Globe of Death**, **ARTURO TROSTL**, high wire/motorcycle, and Illusionist **SWANSON**. Harry says Famous Hunt is set to go out despite the fact it has been in quarters less than a month, thanks largely to the efforts of **BOB OWENS** and **ARTHUR BROWN**.

.....Midget Clown **JUNE DEWSBURY** will have her day in court with the IRS and says she will let me know the outcome immediately!.... Good luck, June!

See you down the road, luv.

Kans. Date

Threatening skies hovered over the Carson & Barnes Circus at Marysville (Kans.) on Oct. 4 where the show was on a hard to find lot. Because of prior rains the area was really muddy and many trucks were pulled onto the lot. Most of the trucks were parked on the street, as much as two blocks away.

The show used four seat wagons at this date and drew small crowds. They were using the old 1974 big top because of the weather and possible bad winds.

The air was cool and mud was very much in evidence at Clay Center (Kans.) where the show played on Oct. 7th. However, facilities were better here. The circus carries

The circus carries one of the biggest menageries on the road today, with some 34 elephants, two zebras, llamas, and a variety of caged and penned animals. This writer enjoyed visiting with Gladys Black, Jim Crawford, Shorty Shearer and others on the show.

...Ron Sanford

The Beatty-Cole Circus was used as background for the Foxy Pox glue commercials now being shown on TV.

The DuBois Circus World is reportedly going out again in 1977, but will use a complete circus format presentation.

Cancelled

Several American acts which were set to tour in Mexico with Circo Union were recently cancelled out, because of the devaluation of the peso. Show officials reported they were now unable to meet the expenses that would be involved.

Among the acts receiving cancellation notices were: The Quassars, Miguel and Margerta Ayala and The Kolmedys.

PEOPLE

WILLIAM WATTS will be in charge of the French Actor's Union Circus which will be presented in Santa Monica (Calif.) in November. Consultants will be PARLEY BAER and BOBBY YERKES.

MEL and B. K. SILVERLAKE visited the Shrine Circus at Austin (Texas) then headed for their home in Alamo.

FRANK J. DAILEY was badly burned when his camper stove exploded in Canada this past month.

ROSA GIBBS was hospitalized in Texas early this month for an appendix operation.

RAY VALENTINE, of the Flying Valentines, will produce a circus at Conroe, Texas on Nov. 20-21.

BILL HALL will direct a circus production at Houston's Astro Hall for Thanksgiving Day

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76-77

.....by BILLY BARTON

THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR has been a Bicentennial Bust. While some tent circuses made money, or at least broke even, other shows experienced financial turmoil. The saturation of Bicentennial Salutes, in which local sponsors were already deeply involved made 1976 a difficult year to get through. Add to this the erratic economy and the unsettled Presidential situation

The Spring, always a good time for tent shows, held up fairly well; but the summer season was a roller coaster, certainly hurt by the increasing popularity of Theme Parks, which had the greatest grosses in the history of American Amusement Parks. Early fall saw the tenters heading to the barn rapidly. The Great American closed Oct. 11, with Sells & Gray and Hoxie Bros., following close on its heels.

Some claimed the early closings were due to the November elections, but that seems merely a justification. The answer is, 1976 has simply been a very bad circus year.

Circuses depending solely on phone promotions found the going rough. Such promotions will continue to be active, but there are now only so many money-making promos left, and none are as profitable. "Unlimited Calling" has been stopped in many areas, with calls now costing 7 to 9 cents each. Expenses are over-hiding profits. On top of increased promotional costs is the "heat", which is getting hotter. A promoter finds himself running the risk of arrest or being shut down. The heat in Canada, for example, is volcanic and a lot of that is being felt in this country. Sponsors are making larger demands and often promoters go into the hole.

The following is a thumbnail report on a cross-section of American tent shows, based on a 1976 pulse-beat which, in turn, gives a basic idea of what can be expected from these shows next season.

In September, Charles Germaine launched the new Page-Cavanaugh Circus. It's promotional activity has been brisk. Newport News (Va) was especially good. The circus has a run of 14 days or so on the West Coast and two dates in the east in December, all in buildings. The plan is to play a lengthy route in '77, in buildings and under canvas. It was Germaine, it must be remembered, who pioneered the successful Miller-Johnson operation that was sold to Clifford E. Vargas.

It is a bit early to predict the future of the Page-Cavanaugh Circus. Past track records do not necessarily underwrite future achievements. Germaine, however, is a first class promoter, so look for an initial run of about 12 to 14 weeks starting, under canvas, about June.

April heralds the return of veteran showman Rudy Jacobi with an under canvas tour of Rudy Bros. Circus. Except for a brief run in July Jacobi shelved the circus in favor of a Bugs Bunny promotion. Family tickets are the keys to this format. Tommy Bently heads the Rudy Bros. promotions and he knows what he is doing. Jacobi plans a run of 25 weeks. Look for a 120 round top with two 40 ft; middles and a season running about 17 weeks as Rudy Jacobi attempts to re-establish his previous route and make a strong come-back.

Fifteen weeks of tent promotions are reportedly being geared by a group of promotional masterminds long associated with a prominent indoor circus. This project is linked together by a long chain of "ifs"; and "if" the whole thing jells, the prediction is for a successful undertaking, but far short of a 15 week tour. Such an inaugural tour is a bit optimistic with so many other shows using the same approach.

Believe it or not, a list compiled recently showed 65 circuses playing the U.S. and Canada. Some played only a single week, or dates of two weeks, while others ran six to eight weeks or less. This figure included all shows - indoors and out, tents, two rodeos and two variety/circus type shows. (Actually, a very small percentage opened and folded). Inasmuch as 65 circuses were in evidence in 1976 it is safe to predict at least 50 will appear in 1977.

Ivan Henry launched his Henry Bros. Circus in '76 on the back-end of Capell Bros. Carnival, then he went into a park at Phoenix. He is now looking for a tent, so the prediction is that Henry Bros. is going to tour as a separate entity from Capell Bros. but with that show's backing.

The manager of a small tent circus on the road in '76 is rumored to be planning a show of his own; was, in fact, reported to be interested in Lewis Bros. Circus equipment. That rumor, very strong

(Continued on Page 12)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

On the second day of the closing of the George-Matthews Circus, I pancho, was told by Sid Kellner, that he had no money and that I should do the best I could because he was going home. He had been offered some work for the elephants, but turned it down because there was no profit in it. I checked this with the agent and found it to be true.

When he left for California, Sid took one of the trucks, not the elephants, and at the time it was raining and cold. I was left with \$450, which was my last week's pay. The \$2500 I had been paid was for three weeks back salary and for reimbursements. There were truck and trailer payments to meet and other debts that I owed.

My biggest debt has been the hospital bills resulting from a mauling by the circus lions. Because there was no insurance I became liable for the \$3000 hospital bill.

Phone calls were made throughout the U.S. in an effort to obtain work, but most agents did not want to deal with me since the elephants were owned by Sid Kellner.

I absolutely had no intention of stealing the elephants. My only concern was for their well being - to see that they had food and care.

.....Pancho Magana

ROUTES

BEATTY-COLE CIRCUS

- Nov. 1 Tuscaloosa, Ala.
- 2 Selma
- 3 Troy

CIRCUS VARGAS

- Nov. 2-4 Pleasanton, Calif.
- 5-8 Salinas

GEORGE-MATTHEWS CIRCUS

- Nov. 3-7 San Mateo, Calif.

KING BROS. CIRCUS

- Nov. 1 Philadelphia, Miss.
- 2 Waynesboro
- 3 Aliceville, Ala.
- 4 Centerville
- 5 Pell City
- 6 Pelham
- 7 Forestdale

POLACK BROS. CIRCUS

- Nov. 6-7 Raleigh, N.C.

RINGLING-BARNUM - Blue Unit
to Nov. 7 Chicago, Ill.

RINGLING-BARNUM - Red Unit
Nov. 4-7 Pittsburgh, Pa.

ROYAL AMERICAN CIRCUS

- Nov. 1 Raleigh, N.C.
- 2 Greenville
- 3 Rocky Mountain
- 4 Elizabeth City
- 6 Durham
- 7 Greensboro

ROYAL HANNEFORD CIRCUS

- Nov. 2-8 Baltimore, Md.

SHRINE CIRCUS

- Nov. 4-13 Ft. Worth, Texas

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Mexico Bound

Acts working the Texas Shrine dates who have reportedly signed to appear in Mexico City (Dec. 18-Feb. 6) with Circo Atayade include: Roman Schmitt rhino and elephant; the Canestrellis, trampoline; Zoppe's Riding Act; Peggy Mills, trapeze and wire, and Ron Perry, wire and juggling.

B-C Date

The Beatty-Cole Circus rolled into New Orleans for an Oct. 15-17 engagement and it was a thrill to see this fine circus. They offer a fast-moving performance with some good clowning. Of special interest was the fact they have an exceptionally good circus side show

The circus was set-up in a shopping center mall, with the center cashing in on the show's dates with sales of all sorts. They also offered previews of the circus performance with acts working at various locations within the mall.Irwin Royes

PEOPLE

WALLY NAGHTIN, Jr., of Circus Vargas, recently broke his arm in a fall from a swing. He will be featured on the Capt. Kangaroo TV show today (Nov. 1).

MARCELLI & JARVIS, low wire act, has been signed for the Kodak Show scheduled for March 24-April 3, in 1977.

COL. JERRY LIPKO will have his comedy chimps at Gilmore's Dept., Store and he will work a Christmas parade this month. Then on Dec. 13th they will be on the Bozo TV program.

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76-77 (Continued)

two months back has now dissipated, so it is possible the idea was abandoned or that terms for the Lewis Bros. Circus were not agreeable.

Beatty-Cole has been a major rumor topic all season, competing with RBBB's possible tent unit for the "Big News" of the year. It's fairly well known that Beatty-Cole did not have a good season and reports have been strong that the show would not tour in '77 and that it quite possibly would be sold.

These rumors gained further strength when other rumors developed that King Bros. would be enlarged (110 round top with 3-40 ft. middles) and that a cat act was to be added to their program. It has been said that both King and Sells & Gray have supported the mother show for many years. If such is the case then economics would seem to indicate that the show just cannot continue. It's a beautiful show and it would be a shame not to see it on the road. The prediction here is that the big Beatty-Cole show will tour in '77, thus dispelling

Miscellaneous

De Wayne Bros. Circus is giving serious consideration to operation of a second small unit that would play fairs and celebrations on the west coast during 1977.

Carden-Johnson Circus has purchased 24 acres of land in Dallas County (Texas) where they are building animal barns and storage facilities for a permanent winter home.



all those rumors and that the coming year will be even better for it.

The Big John Strong Circus had a spotty spring, but made its annual cross-country tour nevertheless. It did well in Ohio and exceptionally well in Canada. Overall it was probably a see-saw season, but one that was survived with grace. The prediction is that the show will do much better in 1977.

(Continued Next Week)



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- End of Season -

CHINESE ACROBATS OF TAIWAN

Nov. 4 Detroit, Mich.

JAMES H. DREW SHOWS

Nov. 1-6 Ft. Gordon, Ga.

- End of Season -

KEN GRIFFIN (Magic)

Nov. 6 Sparta, Tenn.

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4 Portland

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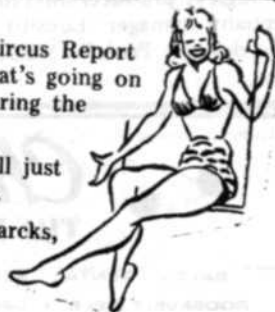
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CIRCUS VISIT (Continued)

the circus bug. As a result everything else was pushed aside for daily visits to the circus - all day long. I was even put to work on the front door, taking tickets and issuing return tags for those heading out to buy more refreshments.

There's no question about it, Circus Vargas is a great show and everyone who attends goes away pleased and happy. I'm even trying to figure out a way to stow away in one of those trucks -- to go on tour full time!

New lineup

The staff for the upcoming Circus Odyssey, which opens at San Juan, Puerto Rico, for its first engagement (Feb. 17-Mar. 28) will include:

Ed Migley, producer-director; Robert Seal, company manager; Lousito Cristaldos, wardrobe designs; Paul Di Maio, Esq., legal officer;

OK SEASON (Continued)

The show had been on the road since Jan. 29th, but it is now safely put away in their permanent quarters in Wisconsin.

As they finished the season the program included: wild animal act (3 lions); Pat & Gwen Davison, juggling; January horse act; Federico Toscani, tumbling; Goat act; Fire eating; Trampoline; llama; Plate Spinning; Liberty horse; The Patricks, rola bola; Elephant and Grand Finale.

The show ran about one hour and 20 minutes, with an intermission. There was only one sales pitch, for a coloring book, before the show started. Elephant rides were offered before and after each show.

During the early part of the year a separate side show top was used. About mid-season the side show was operated at one end of the big top.

Cindy Smith, co-secretary and Aquarius Associates, public relations.



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