



8th Year

April 2, 1979

Number 14

Thrill Show Folds

The Evel Knievel Thrill Show folded at Geelong, Victoria (Australia) on March 1st, shortly after Knievel walked away from the show and returned to the States.

News reports of about that time indicated that Knievel had threatened to cancel his tour because promoters had failed to provide adequate facilities for both the performers and spectators. It was also reported that the promoters had refused to add another truck to the show for additional ramp equipment.

Before Knievel left the show was drawing capacity crowds at each location. However, after he returned to the U. S. the crowds dropped off to virtually nothing.

As performers arrived back in the U. S. they offered a variety of reasons about what happened and how the problems were handled. Thus it depends on who you talk to as to what sort of a story you get. There are those who praised Knievel and support his actions, while others disagreed with him and felt he hurt the show.

Generally the performers agreed they were happy to be back home and lucky they

had return trip tickets. Most of the people report they did not receive all of the money that had been promised them and they doubt that any sort of settlement off will be made.

They all seem to agree that it was a big show, too big for the towns they were playing. One performer said that he felt the promoters there "didn't have enough experience to keep

(Continued on Page 18)

Pot Pourri

by MIKE NAUGHTON

Lisa Jordan in Detroit with her new single trap-eze. Also on the same bill is her first cousin Rietta Wallenda . . . Dorian Blake and Mike "Coco" Polakov working dates in the south for Atlantic Southern Productions . . . Aerialist Nancy Joy Giordano burnt the motor out on her revolving aerial lyre while working Poughkeepsie for George Hubler.

Organist-conductor Richard Rosio returns to Circus Gatini . . . Patsy Jordan semi-retired in snow cone joint on Bill Kay's Albany date. Daughter Lisa has taken over in the upside-down unicycle act.

Clown Middy Streeter will not be with C&B as was previously reported . . . Chandlers on C&B with trap-eze, dogs, illusions . . . John Jordan to Germany in the fall with his Geronimo high dive act for Bauer-Hall Enterprises.

The Schmitts worked the Aut Mori show in Youngstown for George Hubler . . . The Vidbels new GMC pick-up truck needed major repairs and with severe winter weather they were unable to be a part of the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus in Long Island. Temperatures dipped to 35 below zero that weekend.

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PEOPLE

BERNICE NEWTON PETERS is trying to locate JAMES A. MORAN, who was last known to be on a small carnival. If you have information as to his whereabouts contact her at: 552 N. E. 68th St., Miami, Fla. 33138.

JULIUS BOWMAN "Tippy the Clown" recently performed in assembly programs in the Grove City, Pa., school district.

LaROY REDING, of Joplin, Mo., and his miniature circus were featured in a photo report in the Miami (Fla) News-Record, issue of March 11th.

CLARENCE THARP, of Tahlequah, Okla. and owner of the famous TV talking horse "Mr. Ed" reports the famous horse died on Feb. 28th and was buried on the Tharp ranch just outside the city.

DENNIS MARTINO "Mango the Clown" and BRUCE JOHNSON "Charlie the Clown" both formerly with Circus Kirk, have signed to tour with the Conley operated Circus Girard this year.

JIM PARKER, LORELEI, LEE and CATHY MERRITT, AL and LYDIA BURKETT and BILL BIGGERSTAFF, all of Circus Vargas, were guests of the E. W. TEGGE Family at Garden Grove, Calif., last month. (Mar. 10).

HERB HEAD and family set up his one inch scale model circus (Cole Bros. Circus) at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Fla. on March 24th.

THE TEGGE Family were guests of Big John Strong at his quarters in Yucaipa, Calif., on Marc. 11th at John's Party for members of the Joseph Andrew Rowe CFA Tent.

RAY HARRIS, retired circus man, writes that it has been 40 years since the A. G. Barnes Circus went off the road. That show normally carried 125 to 150 people and today there are only about 42 of those folks still around.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is compiled and edited by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. - 94530. Phone: (415) 525-3332.

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SHOW DATES

Hubert Castle Circus
Apr. 2 Pendleton, Ore.
6-8 Aberdeen, S. D.

Circus Vargas
Apr. 2-4 Visalia, Calif.
5-9 Citrus Heights

Cole All Star TV Circus
Apr. 2 Mayville, N.Y.
3 Clymer
5 Frewsburg
6 Salamanaca
7 Kane, Pa.

— End of Tour —

Great American Circus
Apr. 3 Groveland, Fla.
4 Wildwood
5 Chiefland
6 Monticello
7 Live Oak

Hamid-Morton Circus
Apr. 2-7 Harrisburg, Pa.
3-8 St. Paul, Minn.

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Apr. 2 Boynton Bch, Fla
3 Port St. Lucie
4 New Smyrna Bch
5 St. Augustine
6 Apopka
7-8 Melbourne

Hubler International Circus
Apr. 5-7 Buffalo, N.Y.

Lin-Rich Animal Circus
Apr. 9-14 Youngstown, Oh

Monte Carlo Circus
Apr. 3-4 Dubuque, Iowa
6-8 Ames

Moscow Circus
Mar 31-Apr 8 Denver, Colo

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Apr. 3-4 Charleston, W.Va.
6-8 Huntington

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
to June 3 New York, NY

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Apr. 2 DeKalb, Ill.
3 Chicago Heights
4 Crawfordsville, Ind
5 West Lafayette
6-8 Kalamazoo, Mich.

Bob Snowden Shrine Circus
Apr. 5-8 Manchester, N.H.

John Strong Circus
Apr. 2 Cathedral City
3 Paris
4 Hemet
6 Falbrook
7 Poway
8 San Marcos

--- OTHER DATES ---

Clowns of America Convention
Apr. 4-8 Chicago, Ill

James H. Drew Exposition
Apr. 2-7 Belmont, N.C.

The Gutis Family
to Apr. 7 Columbus, Ohio

Hal Haviland - dogs/pony
Apr. 5-8 Manchester, N.H.

Holiday On Ice - Int'l
Apr. 4-8 Huntsville, Ala.

Holiday On Ice - Nat'l
Apr. 3-8 W. Palm Bch, Fla.

Ice Capades - Eastern
Apr. 3-8 Denver, Colo.

Ice Capades - Western
Apr. 3-8 Troy, N.Y.

Ice Follies
to Apr. 8 Minneapolis, Minn

Los Latinos - wire act
Apr. 5-7 Buffalo, NY



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Magic Time USA - Prof. Miller
Apr. 2 Langhorne, Pa.

3 Souderton
6 Reading
7 Binghamton, NY

Manzini Escapeology Show
Apr. 6-7 Wake Forrest, NC

Ed Russell - ringmaster
Apr. 2 Pendleton, Ore.
6-8 Aberdeen, S.D.

Mr. Sensation - aerialist
Apr. 5-7 Buffalo, NY



ADD THE (Hootie) ASHTON whirlwind risleyites to the roster of American talent BAUER-HALL is sending to BILLY SMART's New World Circus for 12 weeks in London's Battersea Park, playing under canvas and opening in late June. The Ashtons will join the Flying Espanas, the Franconi Duo, and the Brothers Farrell. The top-line agency is busy assembling attractions for important European Winter Shows (many of whom have already been signed). Scheduled to open for a year's run at the famed Club Lido in Paris are the Cristianis with their trampoline novelty. Based upon the considerable number of acts Bauer-Hall have sent to Europe and based upon those acts earmarked for European audiences this fall and winter, certainly agency honchos Bill Hall and Joe Bauer qualify as America's chief exporters of home talent to the foreign market.

For years European acts have been imported to our shores and now, happily, the shoe seems to be on the other foot. In addition to the varied and interesting activities engaged in by the industrious pair Bauer-Hall booked the program for the May 25-27 Nur Shrine Temple Circus at Wilmington, Dela. to be presented on stage and features tightwire virtuoso CHRISTOPHER JAMES. Animal acts will be spot-lighted with JANET's CHIMPS, WALT KING's Elephants and Mixed Exotic Group, BURGER's Dogs and Pony, ARIA's BEARS, and "people" acts will include the PLUNKETTS comedy trampoline and the SIKORSKYS.

CLOSEUPS: The JAMES ZOPPE ROYALE RESINBACK RIDERS, plus PRINCESS MAFALDA are among the curtain raisers for Canada's hot TV Series CIRCUS! Tapings started Mar. 12th and will continue intermittently throughout 1979. Talent for the high-rated TV program is handled exclusively by IAN GARDEN. . . SARA, the femme leaper with the FLYING LAR-RAYS, beefs the act with a one-and-a-half and a perfectly executed double. . . Bandleader CHUCK SCHLARBAUM penned special musical ar-

rangements for the EMMETT KELLY, Jr. Circus's opening and closing themes, plus tunes for Emmett's specialties. . . TOMMY COOPER, back two months at least from abroad, visited the Garden show in Allentown (Pa) in early March, regaling one and all with circus tidbits from Merrie Auld England. . . NORBU headlined the Philadelphia Sports Show. . . Author RON MORRIS (when will he write a new book?) spearheaded a two week Florida circus tour which evolves this month. . . JOHN CUNEO is super-elated over the new hind-leg walking white tiger now sparking the WADE BURCK act. . . MICHELINE (Mickey) GARDEN, who celebrated her birthday during the Montreal run, caresses auditory senses with her melifluous rendition of "Tomorrow" hit song from the musical ANNIE being used this season for Garden Bros. aerial ballet. Incaseyadidn't know . . . the honey-voiced trush was a popular French Canadian Cabaret chanteuse, prior to her marriage to the Canadian circus producer and possesses that rare husky tonality identified with such great singers as EDITH PIAF and JUDY GARLAND. . . THE GREAT VASHEK DUO and JAVANNA's JUNGLE JUBILEE herald the Kennywood Park season, starting May 5-6 and then May 11 thru 27th. . . BILL GARDEN's Showtime Follies plays Waynesboro (Pa) on Apr. 16th, sponsored by the Lion's Club and the following performers were publicized in the paper: The Kolmedys, Paulette Braun, Sampion, Holveck & Co., Mario Alberti, Marie France, Diane Wilson, and the Olmedas. . . Author JOHN McCONNELL tells me he will have the Hanneford book finished by June.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE: A story in the New York Post hints that ageless MAE WEST, now 87 or more, is contemplating marriage! Lucky fellow seems to be PAUL (Chuck Krauser) NOVACK, a musician engaged during the fifties for her night club act and who has been her constant compan-

(Continued on Page 16)

PEOPLE

SEIGFRED & ROY, popular Las Vegas illusionists, are reportedly signed to do a TV special which will be aired late this year.

EDDIE SCHMITT's tractor unit blew a piston enroute to the Aut Mori Grotto Circus in Youngstown, Ohio. He was rescued by his brother **ROMAN**.

JIM SWAFFORD writes that the American Continental Circus played a March 24-25 date at Pasadena, Calif. under canvas.

DARRELL WALLEN and his dancing horse "Mr. Rhythm" received special praise in a review of the Aut Mori Grotto Circus.

RON URBAN, who produced, directed and skated in the "With Ice" portion of the Aut Mori Grotto Circus presented an illusion featuring a girl skater and a tiger.

BILL BRICKLE is busy making all new costumes for his dog act, most of which should already be in the show by the time this appears in print.

CHRIS CHALEN, illusionist, was featured on the Mike Douglas TV Show the afternoon of Mar. 22nd.

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ATTENTION ALL SOUTHERN SAWDUST SUBSCRIBERS:

Due to circumstances completely beyond our control, the February 1979 issue of Southern Sawdust is running quite late.

The layout has been ready for weeks, but a press breakdown and other complications have made it impossible for our printer to get the issue out of his shop.

Things are beginning to look up now and we hope to have the February issue in your hands soon.

In the meantime we are going ahead with the layout of the May and August issues as usual. Please bear with us during this trying time.

The volume of your inquiries precludes individual response. Our apologies for this extended delay.

Circusly and sincerely,
/s/ Wilson
L. WILSON POARCH, Jr.
Editor and Publisher

BILLY BARTON, circus aerialist, celebrated his birthday at his home in Greencastle, Pa., on Mar. 24th.

ANITA KEPPO DESIMINI is expecting her first baby in June. Anita is planning to teach web and various other circus numbers to local area students in San Francisco.

DAVID ROSAIRE has returned to the U. S. and is presently being featured on several American shows with his dog act. He recently completed a year-long tour with Circus Krone in Germany.

Flash!

On Mar. 22nd, the Ringling-Barnum Circus officially purchased "Ice Follies" and "Holiday On Ice" from the Wirtz Productions.

Further details in the next issue of Circus Report.

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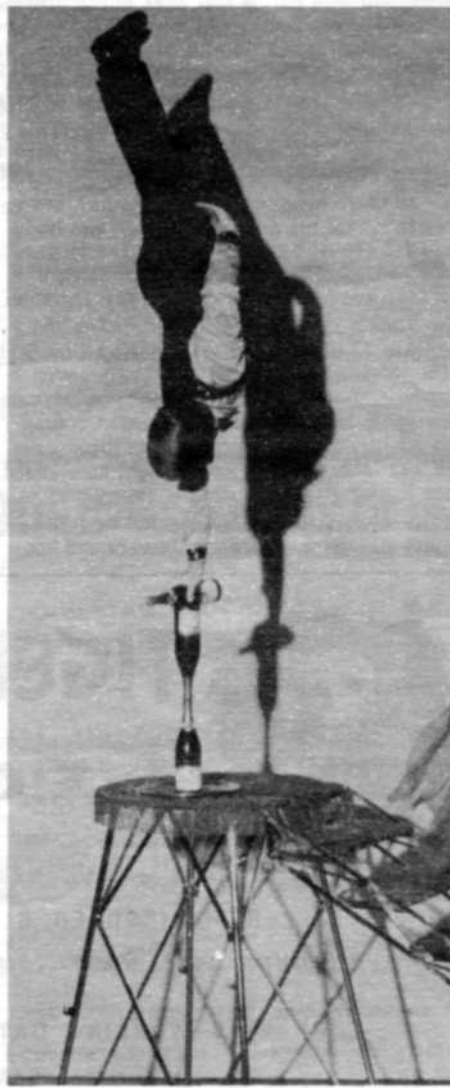
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SCOTT'S OLD TIME MEDICINE SHOW

On Mar. 4th, without any fanfare, publicity or posters, and with only a two week phone promotion, the Tommy Scott's Old Time Medicine Show arrived in Monroe, La. for one afternoon show. It was sponsored by the Exchange Club.

Only one small ad appeared in the local paper and it was only by accident that this reporter knew of the show. They came in from Minden, La., after a few dates in Texas.

The Sunday crowd was extremely small, but we understand that the phone promotion was fairly successful despite a short duration. The original man who started the phone operation left and a local lady was called in to conduct the operation.

The show is moving on 6 mobile trailers and 2 vans, with 12 people in all. It is managed by Scotty Lee (Blevins) and has 14 acts. The program featured juggling, the Masked Rider with whips, perch act, magic with a gorilla illusion, and of course some country music. The 90 minute show looks good, but lacks a clown, which might have added to the humor.

Scotty Lee stated that business has been off-and-on, they opened in Georgia in January and had

Show Report

The program being presented by the Moscow Circus on its current tour of the U. S. features the following acts: Ludmila and Valeri Filatova, exotic animal act; the Gavril Barkar Troupe, acrobatics; the Yuri Shubin Acrobatics, equilibrists; Lyudmila Kanagina, gymnastics; Ludmila and Valeri Filatova, uncaged leopard; Veronika Birina, ladder balancing; The Antoninovs, aerial gymnasts; Kussyakovs, foot juggling; The Nugzarov Riders, Cossack riders; Intermission.

The second half includes: The Magomedovs, high wire; Anatoli Osipov, strong man juggler; Valentin Filatov, bears; Finale with the entire company.

good business in Florida and Alabama. In all some 300 one day stands are planned throughout the U.S.

Star of the show were Clyde Moody and his wife from Nashville, who do sharpshooting. John Groves did the pole act, John Low, who was with Hix Bros last year, was the juggler and a very fine one, Texas Jim was the singing cowboy, Gaines Blevins, played and provided the humor, and the show also featured the Georgia Peanut Band which Tommy had out several years ago and revived when Carter became the President.

..... M. L. Dupont



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Injury Report

Eva Takasendrene, an aerialist with the Ringling-Bar-num Red Unit suffered multiple injuries when she fell during a performance at Baltimore, Md., on Mar. 14th. Hospital attendants later said her condition was stable and reported that she had fractured her pelvis, a wrist and a vertebra as a result of her fall.

One witness told newspaper reporters that she and her husband were preparing to do their "iron jaw" aerial act when she apparently let go or slipped or lost her grip of a suspended bar they were holding. She fell head first, then twisted before striking the concrete floor, landing on her left side.

The couple were performing above the center ring, while Dolly Jacobs was on one side and The Ar-mons (both aerialists) were on the other side.

PEOPLE

HENRY THOMPSON painted the Hoxie Bros. Circus trucks for the current season. He has the side show and a pit show on the circus midway.

LYLE TUTTLE has opened a "Tattoo Art Museum" at 30 Seventh Street, San Francisco, Calif.

JOHN MCGINN, along with DORIS and GENE McDONALD presented a talk about the circus at the library in Prescott, Ariz. last month. They also displayed circus lithos and showed circus slides.

JOHN FULGHAM, of Vega Amusements, is recovering from open heart surgery and writes that he visited friends on the Ringling Red Unit during the show's Virginia/Maryland dates. He will be doing promotion once again for the Sam T. Polack Circus.

JOHN WEISMULLER, the famous swimmer and "Tarzan" of the movies, has been confined to the Screen Actors Guild Hospital in Woodland Hills, Calif. He would enjoy cards and letters.



THE CASTLE CIRCUS . . . by Ralph Henderson

The Hubert Castle Circus played Spokane, Wash. on Mar. 15-18 under sponsorship of the local Shrine and has a top-rate program. They have some five ring displays, plus the opening aerial ballet with six web girls and two single trap acts.

The show's staff included: Robert Dunham, personnel director; Ed Russell, ringmaster; Prof. Clement Toca, musical director; Gene Randow, producing clown; Pablo Martinez, prop boss; Hector Martinez, electrician and Albert Savage, transportation.

The program featured: Aerial Ballet with Miss Sally and Miss Wendy on trapeze; Larry Dean, making his debut with 6 tigers and 3 lions; Clowns and Tug-O-War; Display of perch and cradle with The Roberts, The Glorions, The Octavios; Killer Willard, boxing kangaroo; Derrick Rosaire and Tony the Wonder Horse; Clown juggler, Lee Marx; Pablo and the Angels, perch; The Juggling Drougetts; Marhal Camels and Llamas; The Maple Grove Arabians; High School and Long Rein horses; Christine's Chimps; Clowns with the Levitation; The Cheletis, rolling globes; the Segura Family, trampoline/risley; Diekass Sisters, rolling globes; Intermission; The Ray-Lunas Flyers; Clown band with Doug Ashton (trumpet) and Miss Sally (banjo); Arturo Segura, bounding rope; Irene, Tongo & Co., comedy gorilla; The Elkardis, three girls doing hair hang and one doing iron jaw on a turning rigging; Ron & Mitzi, iron jaw; The Marios, hat juggling; The Pablo Rodriguez Aerial Bar Troupe and the Albabis Sensational Dare-Devs, aerial motorcycle.

In Memoriam

WILL MASTEN (100) an uncle of performer Sammy Davis, Jr. and founder of the Will Maston Trio died in his Hollywood, Calif., apartment on March 15th. He formed the trio in 1936 and they gave their last performance in 1958.

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The program presented by the Hubler Int'l Circus at Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (Feb. 10-11) included: Lilli Ana, leopards; Nancy Joy Giordano, aerial; Prof. Hardy; The Edwardos, bikes; Clowns; Nancy's 40 Venetian Doves; Nebraska, the Unrideable Mule; Aerial Webs; Scott's Dogs; Clowns; Miss Evelyn, Girl in the Moon; Norbu, gorilla parody

Visitors during the date were: Albert and Jeanette Rix, Frank Robie, Lottie Brunn, Middy Streeter, Corky Young and Mike Naughton.

PEOPLE

KATIE SEGER, a former Ringling-Barnum clown, is now teaching a class in Clowning at the Contra Costa College (San Pablo, Calif.). She was featured in a photo report in the Oakland (Calif.) Tribune on March 18th.

JESSIE GRIFFITHS, show organist, is lining up a tour of circuses, fairs and rodeos for the upcoming season.

MARK ANTHONY and **JIM PARKER**, clowns with Circus Vargas, recently visited **DEL WENTWORTH** who has been staying close to home because of a recent illness.

HELEN WALLEUDA was featured in the Jan. 18 issue of the St. Paul (Minn) Pioneer Press when the Wallenda Troupe was appearing at a Sports Show in that city.

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SPECIAL**ACADEMY AWARDS** By Lloyd Jones

At the annual Award Show of the Academy of Magical Arts and Sciences, held March 10th at the Variety Arts Theatre in Los Angeles, a packed house (\$10.00 each) saw Walter B. Gibson receive the highest award, the Master Fellowship for his magical writings (as well as the Shadow stories, etc.). The Magician of the Year Award went to Blackstone, Jr., who made a surprise appearance at the dinner for notables following the show.

Special Fellowship Awards were presented to Dick Clark for the use of magicians on his recent show "Wednesday Night Live" and also to Dick Cavett for his frequent use of magicians on his programs. Also receiving awards were Lloyd E. Jones (Special Fellowship) for a life long interest and contribution by writing, publishing and supporting magic and magic clubs, and John Braun (Literary Fellowship), editor of the Linking Ring Magazine.

The show was mc'd by Bob Barker, of TV fame and many TV stars made the presentations. One went to Goldfinger and Dove as Visiting Magicians of the Year and one to Frances Willard who aided by Glenn Falkenstein performed the classic Cabinet Seance routine of the late Willard the Great. Peter de Paul and Kathyln performed the Stull Barrel Escape and earlier Harry and Leslie Anderson used the Stull Watch in a mental routine. For his many creations, the now aging Bob Stull received a Creative Fellowship award.

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ROYAL HANNEFORD . . . by Jon Friday

The 37th annual Medinah Temple Shrine Circus at Chicago, Ill. (Mar. 5-25) was produced by the Royal Hanneford Circus and presented at the Medinah Temple in that city.

The program featured: National Anthem with Medinah Shrine Color Guard; Razzle Dazzle, introduction of Ringmaster Senor Rai, Overture and Magical production of Star Wars characters from cabinets at the left and right of stage as spotlights reflect on mirror revolving ball at center stage; Tajana, with 8 tigers; Molly & Dolly (Wally and Cheryl Jones) with the Clown Washer women; The Francisco's teeterboard number with young Julio in a 4 man high; The Hanneford Bareback Riders, with 92 year old Catherine Hanneford, comedy by Tommy Hanneford, young Nellie Hanneford and Mark Karoly, doing a twisting back somersault horse-to-horse; the Osmani Sisters, juggling; Aerial Ballet, with six webs and featuring Lou Ann Jacob, doing hand balancing feats on her crane bar during webs and single traps along, concluding with a one-hock catch; Los Latinos, tight wire number by Herbie Weber and Marcella; Gaylord Maynard and Chief Bearpaw, the former known as the Foster Brooks of the circus and the latter as the Apple-Jack imbibing Appaloosa Horse. (only act lauded by a tough Chicago Sun-Times review); Victor Julian's Little Stars, dressed and somersaulting dogs presented by Leo Coffey in Memory of the late Victor Julian; Land Of Oz, spec, featuring Nellie Hanneford as Dorothy and presenting the trained doves owned by Betty Woods. The entire ensemble, including some of the elephants are seen in this colorful musical spec produced by Philip Morris; Intermission.

The Flying Gaonas, an all male act featuring Julio; Ho Ho Taxi, a clown car with an "outhouse" trailer that explodes into a phone booth; Les Verdus, rolling globes on inclined ramps; The Great Huberto,

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inclined rope walk and slide for life; the Royal Hanneford Elephants, 4 bulls including one doing a one foot stand. Mark Karoly balances Nellie above his head while standing on an elephant's back as the animal walks a cylinder-barrel across the stage, Mark also performs an elephant propelled ascent to the back of an elephant via teeterboard. All four elephants have girl riders; Patriotic Finale, with the entire company.

The program credits include: Tommy Hanneford, executive producer; Glenn Parkins, executive director; Keith Killinger, musical director; Kay Parker, organist; Bob Parker, drums; Al Leonard, vocalist; Senor Rai, ringmaster/announcer; Dwight Hanson, prop boss; Gertrude 'Struppi' Hanneford, aerial director; David Jones, lighting; Philip Morris, spec designer/ringmaster/announcer; Glenn Parkins, color scheme and layout; Paul R. Amundsen, Potentate and Morton H. Petrie, circus coordinator.

The Specs featured here in Chicago were seen last year at some Royal Hanneford spots that have no confliction with the Medinah Shrine Circus, Chicago, as the Cinderella and other newer specs couldn't possibly make an overnight jump from Greenville, S.C., to a 1 p.m. matinee in Chicago.

There will be sometimes later on, two units of the Royal Hanneford Circus operating at the same time in various sectors of the U. S. Thus, the variations from the program presented recently at Roanoke, Va., and elsewhere prior to the Chicago date. Producer Tommy Hanneford has turned full circle in less than 20 years, from a featured performer with Polack and Clyde Bros., to Executive Producer and owner of many of the animals now seen in the circus.

SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

I mentioned in an earlier column that a member of the Billy Smart Circus family was in the U. S. looking for acts - now I have learned that a member of Circus Knie, of Switzerland, is in the states looking for acts. Louis Knie spent considerable time in Sarasota/Venice area seeing the Ringling show

Emmett Kelly is now 80 years of age. He is an excellent cartoonist and lives in semi-retirement in Sarasota. At the moment he is helping United Artists to prepare a movie about his life.

Here are some facts about the '79 season for the RBBB units that may surprise you. The Red Unit, which opened almost a full month before the Blue Unit, will play only 29 cities, while the Blue Unit will play 49. The longest stands are by the Red Unit at New York City, for 9 weeks, but hear this, Ringling ads for that date started appearing more than 5 weeks before the opening. Thru April 22nd there are only 14 evening performances, 23 morning shows and 18 matinees, only on 6 days does the circus have three shows a day scheduled. Prices at New York are scaled at \$4.40; \$5; \$6; \$7; \$8 and \$9.

The Blue Unit has only 6 dates that are 11 days or more, there are four 13 day stands and two 11 day stands. The Red Unit has 9 days that exceed 11 days, with New York the longest and Chicago set for 31 days.

While on the subject of Ringling, their Savannah (Ga) date garnered heavy newspaper coverage with front page color photos in the Savannah Evening Press (showing the spec), while the Morning News carried color photos Michu and Barbara Woodcock.

One last note on Ringling. The 109th program of the Red Unit shows that programs for the years '70 Blue, '73, '74 and '76 have been sold out.



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I picked up several collector items this past week thanks to the wife of my deceased friend Earl Allen they included a 1964 hardback route book of RBBB. It was the first book printed since the show discontinued them in 1956. With it came another hardback of the 12 year existence of the Gainesville Community Circus, plus a copy called "Circus Kings" with many photos. It was like Christmas in March and I'm indebted to Louise Allen for her kindness.

My limited book sale advertised in CR was a great success. I sold all copies and even had to use my own copy to fill the last order. They were all shipped by March 9th, so everyone should have their orders by this time.

Louisiana Purchase Garden & Zoo is planning a big "Zoo Day" in May and they are looking for two elephants for elephant rides for that week. Several people have been contacted but so far no decision has been made. Zoo Day is backed by the Great Monroe Optimist Club and is always a big event. A Circus ought to be able to make a tie-in with the zoo for this event.

Does anyone know who it was on Mar. 11 or 12 that stopped in Monroe, La. with a truck load of caged cats? A zoo employee said he saw them setting on the edge of Hi-way 80, near the Eastgate Shopping Center, but he failed to ask who it was.

It's official now, Eddie Zacchini will produce the Northeast Louisiana Shrine Club Circus in Monroe on June 16-17. Eddie who has had Monroe for a number of years lost out in 1978 when the club's date was taken by the Ringling show. The Zacchini date at Shreveport, La. last year, will be produced this year by Sam T. Polack.

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Show Report

JAMES M. COLE TV CIRCUS ... by Bill Galloway

As the Cole TV All Star Circus neared the end of its 41st annual tour, the show played Byron-Bergen High School, N.Y., on March 15th, sponsored by the Senior Class. Both sides of the gym were filled for the single performance. Mr. Cole will close the season in Western Penna., on April th. Several of the acts had already left for early spring openings and were replaced by new performers.

The current show line-up included: Aerial Ballet (webs), Victoria Lang and Diana Yoxall; Rola Bola by Billy Martin; Foot Juggling by Miss Elizabeth (Macias); Canine Review presented by Barbara Yoxall; Juggling by the Bobbie-Jane Duo (Langs); Intermission; Yoxall's Merrie Menagerie (two pigs, goat, dog and pony); One Finger Stand and Balancing by The Magnificent Oscar (Macias); Gorilla Parody with Miss Vicki (Lang) and Mongo Bongo (Billy Martin); Aerial Ladders, Miss Diana and Miss Toni (Yoxall); Trampoline acrobatics by the Lang Family and the Cloud Swing, presented by the Fabulous Oscar (Macias).

The show's staff includes: James M. Cole, owner/manager/producer; Billy Martin, announcer and Chris Rawls, concessions.

PEOPLE

FRED RICKARD, noted magical builder and collector, is recovering from a stroke and heart seizure suffered last month. A pace-maker has increased his outlook and his recovery from the effects of a stroke is surprising even his doctors. He is receiving treatment at the Adventist Hospital in Glendale, Calif.

IN MEMORIAM

AL HODGES (65), the man who played the part of "Captain Video" and was television's first space hero (1949-1956) died in his New York City hotel room on March 20th. The room was filled with mementos of his days of fame.

CHARLEY BAUMANN, tiger trainer with Ringling-Barnum, is recuperating from a recent operation and expects to be back in the circus performance very soon.

CARLTON & Co., illusionists, are featured with the ice show "Razzle Dazzle" in Las Vegas.

MESHA T. CLOWN returned to San Francisco last week after spending several months in Paris where she studied circus arts.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

ion ever since.

READER'S CORNER: For light entertainment and easy reading try "The Memory of Eva Ryker" by Donald A. Stanwood (paperback), an adventure mystery based on that beleaguered ocean liner, The Titanic, an incident in history which, like the Hindenberg, seems to foster endless fascination for writers and readers alike. Author Stanwood must be either a circus fan or a friend of performers because the book is studded with circus bits and allusions to circus artists.

ENERGY experts predict gas will go to a buck a gallon by December. Don't believe it, gas will go that high **BEFORE** December! Oil companies jump at the flimsiest excuse to escalate prices and summer is the perfect time to hype, and that's not the worst of it. Gas prices will continue to rise. It seems the perfect synonym for inflation is **GREED**. A very famous Washington lawyer recently told a producer friend of mine that a clean sweep should be made in the nation's Capitol eliminating every man in office from the top to the bottom. A good idea - but one that is, unfortunately, beyond the realm of probability.

HUBLER INT'L CIRCUS invades the deep south for the first time this season when the show plays Jackson (Miss) May 26-27 and Birmingham (Ala)

June 14-16. **GARDEN BROS.** also invaded the land of antebellum homes and cotton when that show played Dothan and Montgomery (Ala) in late March.

THE McConnell, Simmons & Co., Inc. has published a circus magazine and color book for the Hanneford Circus, with masterful art work by designer **GEORGE DaDEPPO** and text by **JOHN McCONNELL**. The color book depicts various acts and personalities with the circus and George has created an effective "coat of arms" logo for the cover of the magazine. A drawing of **WALLY & CHERYL** is featured on the cover of the color book.

FLASH: The Carson & Barnes Circus has embarked on an extraordinary publicity gimmick for the new season. Artist-designer **GEORGE DaDEPPO** has been commissioned to create ads for TV Guide which will be used in local areas in advance of the Carson & Barnes play-dates. The ads will draw attention to the circus being documented on the NBC program "Weekend" and as the centerpiece for the Miller Beer commercials. De Deppo's Detroit based agency has also been designated to place the ads in TV Guide in specialized areas.

See you down the road, luvv.



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PEOPLE

LOUIS STERN, of the old Polack Bros. Circus, now lives in retirement at Albany, N.Y. where he recently visited friends on a show playing in that city.

VERONICA GRIFFITH, of Annville, Pa., is an upcoming escape artist. She recently achieved a new record in escaping from a strait jacket.

THE GAONA FAMILY will soon be featured in the "Tarzan" comic strip series. Watch your local paper

REPORT

ZURAH SHRINE CIRCUS . . . by Pat Bissonette

Circus performers appearing at the Minneapolis, Minn. Auditorium and Convention Hall certainly earned the right to be included under the Post Office Motto. Neither rain, sleet, icy roads, blinding snow, etc, plus Travelers advisory warnings could stay these hardy performers from their March 3-11 date in this frigid North Star State.

They braved freezing rain on Mar. 1st, 6 in. of snow on Mar. 2nd, plus the snow already here and a storm warning with fog.

Who said it was a summer follow the sun occupation? Wonder how many, while driving here voiced aloud, why did I book this date?

Sure, we know Jimmy Cole, Tommy Hanneford and M&M play the Upstate New York Snowbird route, but it's not like Minnesota.

Twenty-one displays punctuated this Hubert Castle Zurah Shrine date, the program was the same as reported in CR of Feb. 26th, issue No. 9, with two exceptions the day I saw it, on March 5th. Killer Willard didn't appear and Ringmaster Lucky Larabee had to interrupt the show during Derrick Rosaire's presentation with Tony, some kids were throwing candy balls at the horse. But Derrick, showman that he is maintained complete control.

Tarzan Zerbini's act in only loin cloth and sans chair and gun prompted some Senior Citizen nearby to comment, "those lions and tigers must be old and tame." Guess he made the act look too easy for them.

Gene Randow worked 8 Shrine clowns into the program nicely with two acts - Harcut Machine and Mike Padilla as the center of the Strongman Tug O'War gag.

for this special sequence.

JUNE HOROWITZ, of Michigan, was presented with the title "Best female magician in the United States and England" after winning several rounds of a magic competition.

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Show Date

This year's annual Police Circus at Steubenville, Ohio, was that sponsor's 12th annual show and it was produced by George Hubler. Performances were presented on March 17-18 with two shows each day.

Some of the acts featured on the program were: Norbu, gorilla parody; Scott's Unrideable Mule; Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys; Vivian's Football Dogs; Prof. Hardy and his clowns; Pinson's elephants; Lilli-Ana's leopards; Nancy and her Doves; Susan Sheryl, Royal Afghans; Joanna Wilson, dogs; Joy Giordano, aerialist; The Flying Aztec Troupe; a Disco Aerial feature and other numbers.

Advance sale tickets were priced at \$2.50 for child-

THRILL SHOW FOLDS (Continued)

a show of this size going."

Late last month newspapers reported that Evel Knievel was at a Butte, Montana, hospital. It wasn't that he was ill or had been injured, he was there to comfort his wife as she gave birth to their fourth child, a daughter they named Alicia Jo.

Evel and Linda are also the parents of two boys and another daughter.

ren and \$3.50 for adults. Tickets at the door sold for \$3.00 for children and \$4.00 for adults, with box seats priced at \$5.00. Special family tickets were also available prior to show days.

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PEOPLE

BILL KARLTON who operates two shows which play shopping center malls is planning to field a third unit for the upcoming season.

THE YOXALL FAMILY will tour with a unit of the Carden-Johnson Circus this summer with their various animal acts.

THE AMAZING CONKLINS, magic/illusions, will be featured with the Martin & Downs Circus in Canada again this summer.

BILLY MARTIN, BUCK NOLAN, THE LANG FAMILY, DICK KOHLREISER and **MARGO** and **JACKY BRADFORD** will be among those who are touring with the Great American Circus this summer

JOHNNY HART, the English magician who works with parakeets, is featured on the show at Reno's MGM Hotel.

SAM BOCKLICH, of Sacramento, Calif., a former circus man and show owner, still entertains for local children's birthday parties and he also does mental magic for clubs and lodges.

THE GUTIS FAMILY recently taped a TV show in Canada and are now playing a series of Shrine Circus dates in both the U. S. and Canada.

ED HARRIS, artist and chalk talk originator did the art work for **STAN KRAMIEN's** "Magicazam" show advertising and letterheads.

KUKLACHOV is the clown with the Moscow Circus now touring in the U. S.

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Award

MIL LARSON and **BILL LARSEN**, enterprising supporters of the Magic Castle, the Mayfair Music Hall and the Society for the Preservation of Vaudeville Arts, which revived the old Variety Arts Theatre in a run down section of Los Angeles, were presented membership in Magic's Hall of Fame on March 9th. Their mother, **Gerrie Larsen Baker Jaffe**, was honored by having her photo placed on the wall of the Society of American Magicians Hall of Fame, which is in the basement of the Home Savings Building in Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles Assembly of **SAM 22** does most of the work in this spacious hall and **John Zweers** and his hard working committee deserve high praise. The National Council of the **SAM** held its semi-annual council meeting there March 9-10, with **Roy Snyder** presiding and with some 30 council members in attendance.

HAL DIAMOND & CO. worked a Mar. 30-Apr. 1st date at McLean, Va., playing in that city's Alden Theatre.

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