



8th Year

July 2, 1979

Number 27

CFA Notes (Special from Don Sandman)

Some 395 Circus Fans converged on the Civil War town of Gettysburg, Pa., for their annual convention, held June 10-13. Headquarters for the gala-celebration was the Sheraton Inn-Gettysburg.

A full-schedule program got underway on Sunday, June 10th with Registrations starting at 1 p.m. in the hotel lobby, followed by a reception in the hotel's Piccadilly Court. The Bull Room was under the direction of Jim Hassen and the Miniature Circus Room was handled by members of the Rudy Rudynoff Ring of the CMB. There was also a Circus Mart with many fine circus mementos on sale to the public. At 3 p.m. Cohen's Circus Concert Band presented a program of authentic circus music, and at 7 p.m. Father Dagwell presided over a Church Service. The Circus Cinema was opened at 8 p.m. and continued into the wee hours of the morning.

On Monday, June 11th, the big event for the Convention was the arrival of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus. This writer, and other CFA's were on the lot at 6:30 a.m. and the circus was already driving stakes and busy unloading the trucks. The lot was muddy in some places and soft all over, and while the tent was being erected more rain came down. The soft lot became a soft lake, but the crew did a great job of getting the show up on schedule.

The rains stopped in time for the afternoon backyard barbeque, for all circus personnel and CFA's, and the sun even peaked through the clouds, although it was windy and cool. A highlight of the afternoon was the 40 puffing brass whistles of the Getz Bros. Steam Calliope, played by 81 year old, Mrs. E. Lorena Miller. The calliope was brought to the convention by William Z. Getz, of Lancaster, Pa. Mrs. Miller plays from memory, with half (Continued on Page 23)

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PEOPLE

THE GRIMALDIS, musical comedy act, are enjoying a busy tour with their new Airstream trailer. They played the Shreveport, La., date for SAM T. POLACK where they had a reunion with AL and SUE DAWLEY and later were visiting in Las Vegas with friends.

ANGELA WILNOW and her *Collies* will play 4th of July dates in and around Chicago and will appear on the Bozo Tv Show on July 6th, for the Howard Schultz Agency, of Chicago. On July 9th, they will join the Royal Danish Circus at Peru, Ind., for a week.

REMEMBER? ... by Bill Wotsch

I remember when Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus pitched their tents on the site where the Cleveland Stadium is now. This was around 1925 or 1926.

Most of Cleveland's lake front was part of a dump and was filled in. When the stadium was built the circus set up east of it, with lots of room.

We had all the big circuses there and 101 Ranch until the Great Lakes Expo of 1936-1937. No circus on the lake front then.

On May 28, 1937, Cole Bros. Circus 50 car show set up on the East 9th Street hill on the corner of Lakeside Ave. They had a big street parade up East 9th Street, I stood on the corner of East 9th and Superior to watch the parade. The late clown Emmett Kelly rode a bicycle in the circus parade.

On June 19-20, 1939, Ringling Bros. used this lot until the Cleveland Press built on it.

AMERICAN CIRCUS SIMPLE

... by Trace of Sarasota (14 yrs old)

The white stallions dance to the disco beat. The bears always come as a treat and that girl selling programs in the seats. That look on her face - the light in her eyes as she views the sawdust surprise.

The troupe on the silver cord, making soul, performers give it, do or die. Circus music moves our hearts and our lives

To the patrons its - elephants that walk on a ball, tigers that fly thru the air and when the show breaks up all eyes and smiles are gone til next year, unless you're circus simple then its just down the street and and on its way home, the road, our problems are our cares.

Miscellaneous

The Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show was reportedly playing dates in and around Los Angeles late last month.

A circus was presented at Sunland, Calif., on June 24, as a means of raising funds for the Sunair Home for Asthmatic Children.

A group of circus fans from Georgia attended the June 16th performance of the Florida State University Circus.

The Mecca Shrine Temple, of White Plains, N. Y., had the Hamid-Morton Circus in for a May 25-28 engagement. The Shrine clowns worked the pre-show time slot and "Mr. Lollipops" the clown passed out about 3,000 lollipops to children at the show.

The Highland Park Methodist Church 40 person clown unit recently entertained children at several hospitals in Houston, Texas. The group which is headquartered in Dallas is now getting their gear together for a trip to Alaska.

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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

Beatty-Cole Circus
July 2-4 Cherry Hill, N.J.
6-8 Groton, Conn.

Hubert Castle Circus
July 5 Ogden, Utah
6-7 Salt Lake City

Circus Vargas
July 2-5 Beaverton, Ore.

Allan C. Hill Productions
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July 2 Red Hill, Pa.
3 Lansdale
4 Hilltown
5 Flemington, N.J.
6 Princeton
7 Levittown, Pa.
8 Atglen

Tommy Hanneford Circus
to Sep. 12 Middletown, Oh.

Hoxie Bros. Circus
July 2 Avalon, N.J.
3 Manahawkins
4 Maplewood
5 Lavallette
6 Sea Grit
7 Hackettstown
8 Piscataway

Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus
to July 4 San Rafael, Cal.

Make-A-Circus
July 9 San Francisco, Cal.

Monte Carlo Circus
to end Sept. Haines City, Fla

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
July 3-11 Dallas, Texas

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
July 3-8 Phoenix, Ariz.

John Strong's Circus
July 10-11 Cincinnati, Oh.

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus
July 5-8 Joliet, Ill.

Wallenda Circus
July 7 Jackson, Mich.

Wenatchee Youth Circus
July 4 Prosser, Wash.
5 Edmonds
7 Puyallup

---- MAGIC ----

Blackstone, the Magician
July 3-4 Lexington, Ky.
5-8 Toledo, Ohio

I. B. M. Meet
July 4-7 Houston, Texas

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA
July 8 Aurora, Ohio

Tom Ogden - Magician
July 4-7 Houston, Texas

----- OTHER DATES -----

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
July 2-8 Connersville, Ind.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit
July 3-8 Iowa City, Iowa

Cold Nose Five - Dog Act
July 2 W. Brand, Mich
4 Tarvas
6-7 Houghton Lake

Judy Collins Show
July 3 Lennox, Mass.
6 Holmdal, N. J.

James H. Drew Exposition
July 2-7 Prestonsburg, Ky.

Exhibition & Stampede
July 6-15 Calgary, Altha.

Hal Haviland - Dogs and Pony
to Oct. 8 Lincoln, N. H.

Lipko's Comedy Chimps
to Sept. 3 Sandusky, Ohio

Los Latinos - Wire Act
to July 4 San Rafael, Cal.

Sad Buster - Clown
July 2-4 Corpus Christi, Tex

The Sikorskys - Unicycles
July 2 Fairfax, Va.
6-8 Dundalk, Md.



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4 St. Catherines, Ont
5 Kitchener
6 Stratford
7 Milverton

Tip Top Shows - Blue Unit
July 5-8 Tow Rivers, Wisc

Tip Top Shows - Green Unit
July 2-4 Columbus, Wisc.
6-8 Berlin



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MYRTLE PARKER, widow of the late SLIVERS JOHNSON, came into the Kalamazoo Shrine date to visit her grandson. Myrtle says she doesn't miss the business a bit, has refused all offers to travel on the road with BOB and KAY PARKER. "On the road," she sighs, "there is NOTHING to do. In Wisconsin I have a home life." Mrs. Parker lives in an apartment but the catch is, she owns the building.

KATHY FLETCHER, the gal who did the double in the Lanes' flying act on Vargas last year, has gone back to flying with a "make-up" troupe which replaces SERGIO RAMOS who is off to Europe for a month. She is flying with two other gals, and BILLY WOODS has been putting the act together, or so I'm told. Meanwhile Kathy and her husband live in Las Vegas where he is working on a construction crew.

THE NEW cat act of WAYNE REGAN, presently with George Carden's circus unit, will head for Hawaii for PAUL V. KAYE in August. It's an up and coming wild animal act.

SNAPSHOTS: REX and SANDY YOUNG to the Texas dates this fall. . .WALLY NAGHTIN returned to work in Philadelphia with RBBB Red. The cast was removed in May. DORIS continued to make the production numbers while Wally was laid up and the show paid their salary despite the fact the bear act was out of the program. Wally told me they plan to return to the Ringling show in '80. . .BOOM BOOM BROWNING is a grandfather. . .The Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus plays the Milwaukee Summerfest, formerly held by Fleckles. . .BOB and KAY PARKER return to Hanneford this fall. . .GARY THORNTON formerly of Circus Vargas, is now working at the Cuneo quarters. . .GRACIE McINTOSH played concessionaire at the Mt. Clemens date and was busy, busy, busy. . .so busy we hardly saw her. . .JIMMY DOUGLASS and VERN WOERNER went from Mt. Clemens to Indianapolis to dismantle and ship a gigantic pipe organ for the projected museum. . .THE MURRAY HILL elephants were brought into Denver when the Carden-Johnson show lost two of three elephants due to poisoning.

IVEY UPTON tells me she started out as a Hanneford show girl. She and her husband are with Carden-

CLOSEUPS: IRMA PALACIO FERRONI planning

Johnson's 3rd unit, which show by the way tossed a gala barbeque party June 6 in Kalamazoo. . .LES YOYALL and Family set to play a series of Ohio fair dates after closing with C-J July 15. . .Latest to join the Agatha Christie Whodunit Cult are MIKE and JANICE ARIA and PATTY and DAVE BONNELL (with the Flying Lanes). . .A Circus date in Wisconsin Dells was cancelled abruptly (and mysteriously) and its promoter has yet to be heard from. Those acts in Des Moines who were set to play the date were left high and dry and wondering.

DOWN RUMOR ROAD: That two well known elephants may be sold to a major circus combine. to build an elegant bird act. . .Clown GEORGE CLY-ATT (called Capt. Buddy) is the nephew of flyer GAYNOR JOHNSON (wife of Donnie Johnson) and is with the No. 3 unit. Other clowns are GIOVANNI ZOPPE and LARRY HITE. . .BEATTY-COLE doing good business everywhere. . .FLYING LANES spent a layoff in Florida at the home of NANCY and LEIGH HIGHSINGER, but I think they did more fishing than practicing. The Lanes had a chance to catch the FSU Home Circus. . .Apparently Kennywood Park has gone to a 7 day performing week - the park used to be shuttered on Mondays. . .ALBERTO ZOPPE TROUPE motelling it until they get a new unit. Their truck and trailer were totalled in a Canadian road accident. . .GINA MEDRO, touring alone on C-J with an excellent hand balancing act, tells me one of her brothers DINO (Goldfinger) is out playing dates and that the two younger brothers plan to go out on the road later. In Kalamazoo Papa Medro was on the show with his dog act. . .KATHY ENGLISH hopes to pick up her new 5th wheel after the July 15 date. . .One of the working men with Hamid-Morton was crossing the street during the Providence (RI) date when he was struck and killed by a speeding auto. . .MA HO PIN went from the M & M Circus in Mt. Clemens to the Providence date for Hamid-Morton

FOLLOWING the Hastings (Nebr) date BOBBY GIBBS took the two liberty pony drills, the Husky dog act, high school horses and single bull to LARRY CARDEN's unit and when DONNY JOHNSON's unit closed the camels, llamas and three baby bulls will be

(Continued on Page 20)

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PEOPLE

MARTIN "Lancelot Goodperson" REEVES and his 30 clown unit of the Hella Temple Shrine Club will be participating in the July 4th parade at Duncanville. They will feature their "Toonerville Trolley."

JAMES "Jim Bow" DECKER, clown, will spend the first week of July in Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoras, Mexico. The trip will be sponsored by the First Baptist Church Outreach and will include contact with local performers.

BOB and JEANNE MOORE and their "Mongrel Revue" taped an episode of TV's "Little House on the Prairie" last month. Also appearing in the show were BOB YERKES, RUSS SAUNDERS, DOLLY NOCK, NATE STEIN and CAROL CHENEY with her elephant "Baby Tarra."

TEX MAYNARD, known as the Dean of the Circus Drummers, visited Hoxie Bros. Circus in New Jersey and played with the band, giving show drummer Brady a day off.

HAROLD BLACK (Buster the Clown) appeared in the 1972 Universal movie "She Cried Murder" which featured TELLY SAVALAS and LINDA GEORGE.

THE FERCOS, award winning flying act, has intro-

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duced their magic/illusion act at the Dunes in Las Vegas. The act includes a tiger, lion and leopard.

RICH, CHERYL and JASON DEPTULA, of Lorain, Ohio, recently visited the Monte Carlo Circus and also entertained ELVIN BALE, SERGIO, MIKE GORMAN, JEAN PIERRE at their home. The Deptula's and their circus room were seen on a Cleveland TV Talk Show.

GARY BAKER and VICKI HENDRICKS are performing the comedy "Grinn & Barrett" act under the direction of BOB CHRISTIANS. They are currently on tour with the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus.

JENDA and RENA SMAHA, trainers of the elephant "Tanya" which is featured at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, recently received a diamond 5 year pin for Tanya. The hotel also presented similar pins last month to 1,400 of its employees.

NEW ADDRESS

MRS. WILLIAM MANN, widow of Dr. William M. (Doc) Mann, late director of the National Zoo and a life-long circus fan has moved to:

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BOOK

... by LARRY KENT

THE CIRCUS TRAVELS BY RAIL by Chappie Fox and Tom Parkinson. Published by Pruitt Publishing Co., Boulder, Colo.

Circus fans in search of serious historical material simply must add this book to their library. The book is a giant in the field of good reading and as a reference guide as to 'how it once was'.

Starting with the primitive circus trains of 1860, the authors trace the evolution of circus railroading to the present day, leaving almost nothing to be desired in between. The book is divided into chapters which deal with specific areas of railroad circuses, such as two car shows, loading and unloading, disasters, sleeping cars, advance cars, flat cars, etc.

For those circus buffs who are too young to remember the flat car canvas shows, the book offers insights as to loading procedures, lay-out of rail storage areas in winter quarters, train loading lists, and so on. And carnivals are not ignored either. Towards the back of the book, considerable attention is paid to the giant Royal American and Strates railroad shows, showing the similarity of their rail operations to their circus cousins. Even the 'Holiday On Ice' rail operations are discussed.

PEOPLE

ANITA (Keppo) and TOM DESIMINI are the proud parents of a son — David William Desimini — born on June 8th. The new arrival weighed in at 6 lbs. 13 oz. and is 20 in. tall.

THE ROLLING DIAMONDS, roller skating act, are working a roller skating disco in Philadelphia.

IRIS KEPPO and TONY POTTER will be married next week near New Haven, Conn.

PRINCE PAUL, clown with Ringling's Blue Unit suffered a heart attack last month. He would enjoy cards and letters which should be sent to: Mr. Paul Alpert, Saratoga Hospital, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

As one might expect, Fox and Parkinson devote the lion's share of the book to re-counting how it was with 'Big Bertha' . . . Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey the undisputed leader of all time. Other text and photos deal with equally interesting rail shows such as Dailey Bros., Sells Floto, Hagenbeck Wallace, John Robinson, Sparks, Al G. Barnes, Gentry Bros., Gollmar Bros. etc. It is a magnificent work and at \$35.00 it is a steal. As soon as it goes out-of-print, copies will bring \$100. I wish that I had written it!

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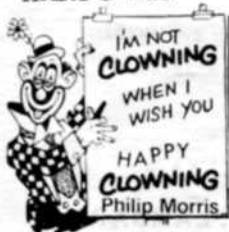
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AT THE FAIR

Special features at the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton, Calif. this year include:

The Week of June 24-30 - Karl and Sheila Winn, aerial motorcycle; Lani Ironberg's Circus and the Mitchell Marionettes.

The Week of July 1-8 - Lilli-Ana's Leopards, The Swaying Bilros, high act and the Middle Earth Marionettes.

Performers appearing in the regular stage shows presented throughout the fair's run are: Peter Marshall, Chapter 5, Willie Tyler & Lester, Ricki Dunn, The Shoppe, The Margo Temby Dancers, Fats Johnson, Evelyn King, Jumping Jacks, Taf Arnold, Dottie West, The Rianos Duo, Mark Wade, The 5th Dimension, Harry Tood and his dogs, Bobby Smith, Frank Fanelli, Clay Hart and Sally Flynn, The New Christy Minstrels, The Juggling Merlits and Ken Noyle.

PEOPLE

THE ALBARRACINE Family was featured in a photo story in the Macon (Ga.) Telegraph & News on June 17th.

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In Memoriam

EDWARD C. SWEENEY (93) a former circus clown who toured with the Ringling Bros. Circus, died at a Southport, Conn., Conv. hospital on June 11th. He was born in Bridgeport and had been a resident of Southport for the past 13 years. He spent 16 years with the Ringling Bros. Circus and after leaving the circus continued to clown for a number of charitable organizations. Survivors include a step-daughter, Mrs. Anna Cornell, of Southport, and several grandchildren.

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THE WAZZAN FAMILY acrobats and trampoline, recently finished their tour with Bentley Bros. Circus, then jumped to Mexico City to start a two year tour with the Hanna-Barbera Show.

KELMAR, magician, reports he has added two dogs to his magic/illusion show.

HELENE HARTZELL has been entertaining her sister NORMA at her home in Las Vegas. During Norma's stay they visited most of the city's night spots.

DAVE KNODERER reports he is available for show work, with his horse and ponies and/or with his art work ability. (Box 271, Orange City, Fla. 32763).

MARION F. LEWIS writes that the elephant on the Franzen Bros. Circus is probably the only show ele-

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phant that responds to "Gee and Haw" commands.

KARL WINN of the Astro Bros., made his debut on the high wire during a performance of Bentley Bros. Circus at Salinas, Calif., last month. His brothers MIKE and JOHN are working at a park in Spokane.

GARY JACOBSON, who was with the Ringling Blue Unit, is presently in charge of the elephants at the Nugget in Sparks, Nev.

HAL HAVILAND with his dogs and pony works in a 60 x 80 ft. blue and gold big top at Fantasy Farm, Lincoln, N. H. The tent floor is carpeted and includes potted plants, plus air-conditioned quarters for his animals.

BOB HOPE will use a combination of American and Chinese acts on his show which will tour China. The program will be filmed for TV release via NBC

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SPECIAL

..... by James Walker Bauer

On Saturday, June 2nd, on the Hoxie Bros. Circus a party was given in honor of the 12th birthday of Juan Carlo Campa, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlo Campa, who with the honored guest and their three lovely daughters make up one of the most loved circus families.

Father Carlo had fashioned a Pinato, usually made of clay, which was not readily available, so this time card board was used with a rocket ship motif. As guests with sticks finally broke the traditional Pinato, candy was spilled forth which proved to be a sweet reward.

Cake and ice cream were served for the party after the 8 p.m. show at Warren, Pa.

Everyone on the Hoxie show, executive staff, performers and the wonderful fellows, without whom there

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JACK KING WRITES.....

The wardrobe on any show is too often forgotten as are the creators of it, so we would like to mention Sara Miller, of Magic Time U. S. A., who always does herself proud, but her work this year has far superceded anything she has done in the past. It would be worth your time to catch the show if only to see the results of Sara's tireless efforts.

would be no circus, the riggers, canvas men, prop men and the like, all took part.

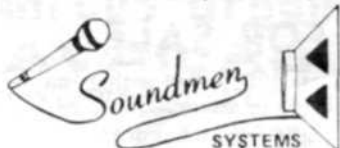
It proved to be agala affair with the Campa family thanking everyone for making the party possible.

On the 23rd of May, at Belperie, Ohio, during the evening show, Sonja Campa fell from her cycle and was hospitalized for three days, but was back again on the one-wheeler at Warren, Pa.

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I have just returned from the Shute Institute in London, Ontario. The treatments I have been undergoing for the last six months have completely rejuvenated my right foot and I have feeling in the foot with completely new skin.

I want to thank each one of you that offered prayers in my behalf and sent me so many cards that I cannot answer everyone like I usually do because of the large amount that I received.

I feel great physically and mentally and I am not limping and I do not have to use a cane anymore.

It has been a great experience for me and I treasure all your thoughts and prayers. Again "Thank You" from the bottom of my heart.

Elephantly Yours,

Sabu

PEOPLE

LINDA KING, daughter of the late Floyd King, and JIMMY D. PRITCHETT, electronics executive, were married at Macon, Ga. last month. The couple now lives in Cary, Ga.

WANTED: Contracting Agent, part time or full time for new magic revue opening this fall in Ohio, Indiana - Can use promoters for other areas.

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Elephants

Margie, the last of a group of three elephants featured on a unit of the Carden-Johnson Circus, died on June 8th after efforts to save her failed. The other two elephants died a few days earlier as a result of food poisoning.

Late reports indicate the elephants apparently contracted salmonella after eating contaminated hay when the circus was appearing at Santa Fe, N. M.

For a time it appeared that Margie had a chance to live and so it was decided that she could be cared for better at a zoo. Plans were then made to send her to the zoo in Denver. She died enroute near the Colorado/New Mexico border.

The three elephants were with the Larry Carden unit of the C-J Circus and were presented in the ring by Bill Golden.

A late report reveals that the Kaye Hollywood Elephants, enroute from the Bentley Bros. Circus date at San Bernardino, Calif., to the Dobritch Int'l Police Circus at Wheaton, Ill. (June 21-24) escaped injury when the ir truck rolled over and was demolished. The driver was hospitalized.



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BIG JOHN STRONG CIRCUS . . . by Don Sandman
 Enroute home from the CFA Convention in Gettysburg, Pa., the writer stopped at Marysville, Ohio, on June 15th, to visit the Big John Strong Circus. The show was sponsored by the Police Dept., and was set up on the fairgrounds, in the middle of the race track. It makes a pleasing appearance and everything is well painted and looks to be in good shape.

In spite of problems about where the show was going to set up, Wally Wallentin got the top up on time and Paul Woolen, concession manager and his crew were ready to go when the doors opened. Both Ron Pace (with Neena the elephant) and Fess Reynolds (with Frosty the Brahma bull) were offering patrons rides on their respective animals.

The circus program, which was well attended, included: Introduction of Big John, Jackie and Fess Reynolds, Brahma Bull liberty act, Barbara and Sylvester Braun, rope spinning, Pete Moss (John McGuire) and Sparky (Don Washburn) clown number, aided by Roulette (Marsha Griep), and Mike Sullivan, Bill Schrieber and Sandy Strong, dog acts, Lenny Mazel, juggling, Prof. Livingston Sparky and his trained giraffe, Miss Chris on the Spanish web, Sandy and her Disco Birds, followed by Arthur the Macaw and Big John's Disco number, The Amazing Swami, fire eating and sword

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Miscellaneous

The Monte Carlo Circus is currently playing under a big top at Circus World Park in Florida. The show opened there on July 1st

swallowing, Intermission with color book sales, Bill Schrieber, pony drill, Sparky and his Flying Cane, Denise and Chris, swinging ladders, Fess Reynolds, with Frosty in a January act, Barbara and Sylvester, whips, Sue Watkins and Antonio Rose, dressage, Pete Moss, the Rocket Man, Ron Pace and Chris with the elephant, Neena.

L. J. Griep is the show's equestrian director, Big John Strong is ringmaster/announcer, while out ahead of the show are Robert (Red) Johnson, Sid (Snappy) Biggs and Bill Burger.

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.... Collected by Mike Martin

Hump-backed trunks, stopped watches, whistling, green onions — these don't sound too obvious, but to a circus performer they all have to do with some strange taboos.

Woven into the daily lives of performers in the world of the circus, are signs of both good and bad luck and much superstition. For instance a performer always enters the ring with his right foot. Perhaps going back to that old axiom of "putting your best foot forward" Further, if there is no audience in the top or arena, the performer will never sit on the ring curb with his back toward the empty seats. Should there be some-one sitting in the first few rows knitting during the performance, Beware!!

In the lives of circus performers who daily tempt fate in the pursuit of their precarious professions, should a part of their costume be put on mistakenly backwards, circus people believe it is bad luck to reverse it. They will perform with it turned the wrong way. Long ago, the wearing of peacock feathers was thought to be bad luck, as were the colors green or yellow. In fact to offset fate or bad luck, some performers sew a small piece of red fabric into the bottom of their costumes.

Other activities and items frowned upon in sawdust circles include eating peanuts or whistling in the dressing room, eating green onions between shows, carrying a harmonica with you, moving a wardrobe trunk

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In Memoriam

LUCILLE CARTER (71) part-owner and operator of the "Old Injun Trading Post & Gift Shop" at Livingston, Ala., died following a heart attack on May 14th. She and her husband, H. Nick Carter, toured at "The Skating Carters" appearing with Shell Bros., Russell Bros., Dailey Bros., Joe B. Webb, and several carnivals. She is survived by a brother, W. M. Hurt, of Beaumont, Texas. Burial was at Navasota, Texas.

once it has been set down. Any of these was said to court disaster.

And even the common superstition about Friday the 13th, being unlucky has its place among circus people. It was on Feb. 13, 1931, Friday - that Lillian Leitzel, the famed RBBB aerialist plunged to her death.

Now as for good luck, well circus folk have a big chunk of that. Elephants have always been considered very good luck, indeed. Many artists carry or wear jewelry made from these mighty mammoths hair and thestatues or carvings of bulls always have their trunks upward. Just like the superstition about horse shoes facing up to keep in the good luck properties.

In the old days, circus billposters would post the last stand of the season upsidetown. Almost as old as circus advertising itself, is the belief that this brings fortune for the coming season.



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I would appreciate hearing from anyone who was on his magic show, worked theatres where he played, knew him, or remembers him or his show in any way.

DAN WALDRON

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SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

All of you readers know by now, John Wayne, The "Duke" is dead. How many of you remember the '64 circus film he made with Lloyd Nolan in the south of Spain called "Circus World"? It was an excellent film with some fine circus scenes. Even though most of it was filmed in Europe it was a good movie for circus fans.

The summer issue of "Adventure Road", Amoco's Travel Club magazine, carries a story and photos of Clowns in the July Peru Indiana Circus City Festival.

The RBBB Blue Unit had "billboard" size ads up in New Orleans for their date there. They were solid blue in color with a tiger breaking through a paper hoop. Nothing in local papers as of June 12th, but one story had appeared in the Times Picayune. Last year (78) for 5 days the show had only 6 performances. This year it's a three day stand at the Super Dome, but it's still six performances.

Tragedy has struck the circus again - a five year old boy was killed by an "uncaged" leopard with a small circus in New Jersey. The AP stories stated the youngster was returning from the rest room when he walked in front of the ring and then was attacked and killed.

News reports indicate no criminal charges have been filed against the circus or the show act and the show moved on to its next stand. (When will people realize that wild animals are just that - wild!).

Imagine my surprise while in "Gaylord's" at New Orleans when I saw a new "Circus of Values" pocket size catalog with none other than Bobby Kaye in full color on the cover. I have only two but would be very

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happy to send Bobby one, I remember my visit with him in 1978 at Monroe, La., with great fondness.

21 years later - the 1958 Circus Review in Bandwagon listed 28 different shows touring the U.S. Of this number 14 were indoor/ball park shows and 14 were tenters. Of the indoor shows listed only RBBB, Hamid-Morton, Gil Grey (Dr. Pepper at Dallas), Polack and Rudy Bros. are still on the scene. Of the tenters only Beatty-Cole (was Clyde Beatty then), Carson & Barnes (was Barnes-Carson), Hunt Bros. and John A. Strong are still going. Mentioned were the Diano elephants, Col. Tim McCoy, Joe McMahon, who was on the Hagen show.

This column was written while I was visiting in New Orleans. A phone call to Charles Koehler, former owner of the Dixiana Circus proves Charles still has the circus fever, but his job keeps him too busy to pursue it. He was getting ready to leave for a fast business trip to Hawaii. He still owns the original cage wagons and calliope from his old show.

While in New Orleans I learned that the Police Circus worked without elephants. Due to a truck break down they were unable to get in for the date.

The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture is studying plans that would require increased ventilation of up to 25% for shipping crates for all warm-blooded animals, for the summer period of April 1st to Oct. 1st.

Thank You

TOMMY BENTLEY

and

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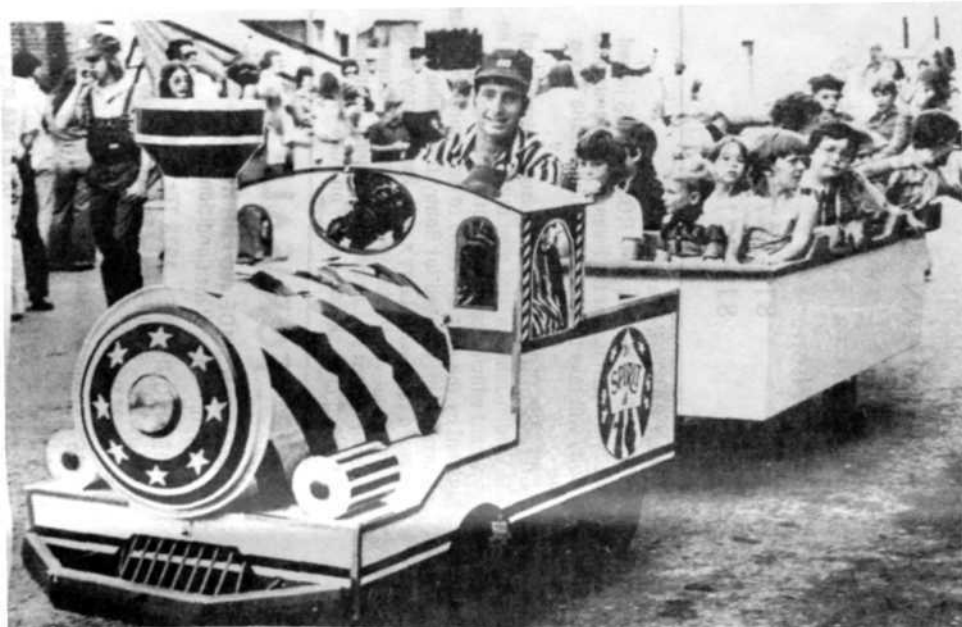
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in regards to the operation on Dolly, the
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Show Report

The program for the George Hubler show at Birmingham, Ala., (June 14-16) lists the following acts:

Eddie Schmitt, Royal Bengal tigers (11); Miss Olinka, aerial star; Clowns; The Great Ramos, one finger stand; Miss Diana, foot juggler; Don Giovanni, swaying lamp post; Clowns; The Elkins Sisters, acro/dogs; Tino Zoppe Wallenda, high wire; The Rolling Diamonds, roller skaters; Clowns; David Rosaire and his Perky Pokes; The Flying Aztecs; The Diano elephant act; The Quassar's, aerial feature; Musical Finale.

The show's staff consisted of: George Hubler, producer; Wm. Boom Boom Browning, band director; Wm. Slater, prop boss; Prof. Hardy, producing clown; Wayne Liikala, lighting; Bill Strong, aerial director; Trudy Wilson, Choreography; Clarence Hall, transportation; Richard and Jos. Leis, food details.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

transferred to George's unit. ROSA GIBBS joined Bobby in Hastings for the balance of the tour, and Bobby will take the three baby bulls to the Texas dates.

LATE SPECIAL: The third poisoned elephant of the Carden-Johnson herd died during the Denver engagement which closed June 10th. An autopsy was ordered by the Animal People to determine the cause of death. Plans changed for Bobby Gibbs who was supposed to go with Larry's unit. He will stay with George's unit and the baby elephants with Donny's unit will be sent to Larry's show. Donny Johnson's unit closed at Muskegon (Mich) on June 17th.

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PEOPLE

CHAPPIE FOX will be doing some advance work for the Ringling-Barnum Circus on the west coast in late July and August.

KAYE ROSAIRE is presently breaking in new lions for her cat act after some of the animals died as a result of an illness.

JOHN HERRIOTT and family left Circus Vargas last month in Northern California to fulfill some other dates.

MIKE CONNORS will star in the ABC-TV disaster film "Amusement Park." he plays the part of the owner of an amusement park that is destroyed in the film.

LARRY FERRIS, general agent for the Foley & Burk Shows will be retiring on July 8th.

ANTHONY HOPKINS plays the part of the 19th century English actor Edmund Kean, in the upcoming TV special "Kean", which will be aired on Sept. 9 and Sept. 16th. Kean kept an African lion as a pet.

EARL (Swacko) LEONARD, a unit manager with the Foley & Burk Shows, retired early this year due to ill health.

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REPORT

BENTLEY BROS. CIRCUS

..... by Bruce Anderson

A very good show was seen by many enthusiastic and well pleased spectators at the Swing Auditorium, in San Bernardino, Calif. (June 16-17).

There is no lack of pace and thrills in the Bentley Bros. Circus. It is held together very professionally by the able talents of the ringmaster, Mr. Tommy Bentley, himself, elegantly dressed, and obviously a pro at the mike!

About eighteen high quality acts, including clown numbers, kept everyone excitedly interested for a couple of sensation-packed hours. To name a few, Sir Chester is outstanding - one of the best foot jugglers I've ever seen. The Winn Troupe held forth in several diversified numbers with superb artistry. The Great Huberto thrilled all with his breath-taking standing slide-for-life. Hats off to Princess Elana Omar who, in addition to a difficult one finger stand, doffs and dons her hat with her feet while standing on her hands.

Wini McKay, aerialist, is to be complimented on her supreme mastery of metamorphosis. The lovely, shapely brunette came out as a tall slender blonde!

Handling of the spotlight left something to be desired. Miss Roberta was in the dark until the light caught up with her slide-for-life.

The band played exceptionally well with the artistic mastery of Virginia Lee Fenton at the organ.

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Miscellaneous

The Buffalo Bill Wild West Show has been held over for an additional 30 days in Japan, where the show has already played to one-third of a million people.

The elephant "Dolly" recently underwent surgery at Dixon, Calif., for removal of the 3rd digit bone in her left foot.

Under the direction of Greater American Entertainment Corp., of Sarasota, Fla., another unit of Philip Morris' World of Fantasy Players is on the road. Using the title "Fun American Style", the show features Chiron, the Magician, Jill and Joy the clown, and Bill de Mar, ventriloquist.

Circus Fans in Conn., have reactivated the Eddie Allen-Bill Browning Tent and added another name. It is now known as the Popo DeBathe-Eddie Allen-Bill Browning Tent No. 108. They meet the second Sunday of each month at the Barnum Museum in Bridgeport.

Capt. Bones' Travelin' Animal Show was playing in the Portland (Ore.) area during the month of June.

The Philip Morris, World of Fantasy production of "Cinderella" is scheduled to open for a short tour in Canada on July 4th. The show operates under the direction of Mike Straka, manager.

The Great American Circus lost its snake show/sleeper when it was struck by a tractor/trailer rig at Connelville, Pa., on May 23rd. There were no injuries and the snakes were saved, however, the truck was completely demolished.

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CFA NOTES (Continued)

the songs being hymns, and the rest consisting of patriotic, waltzes, marches and folk songs.

The circus gave two performances and featured: Band master Gene Nichols, Dave Hoover's wild animals, the Flores Duo, the Ferreira Duo, Mlle. Angela, The Hawks, Mike Williams, Trevor Bale and family, The Romeros Duo, Julio & Antonio, Walter and Ingrid, The Ruwills, Semon's Chimps, Marie Christine, a Clown Autograph Party, The Alvarez Troupe, The Apollos, Hans & Sigrid, Johnny Weld, Senor Valdez, Bonnie and Gloria Bale, The Estradas, Orlando and Celina, the Martin Trio, Fred Logan and family.

On the midway were Dick Stuart's side show with a fat man, sword swallower, electric girl, Serpentina, Punch & Judy, fire eater and a variety of animals.

Some of the show's staff are: Harry Hammond, Art Branning, William Griffin, Edna Antes, John Pugh, Wilson Storey, Harry Rawls, Bob Fogg, George Buttery, James Hickey, Richard Aldrich, Del Craig, Elba Walker, Rita Ferreira, Jimmy James, and others whose name I did not get.

On Tuesday, June 12th, Circus Seminars were held with Chappie Fox, the Ladies Luncheon had Edna Antes as its speaker, and there was a tour of the old Gettysburg Battlefield with professional guides who made you feel you were there while the battle was raging. That evening the Koo Koo Club's performance featured Clark & Co., magic, The Keystone Capital Men's Chorus, and a presentation of "Mr. Lincoln Returns to Gettysburg" by James Gettys. It was a stirring performance.

On Wednesday, June 13th, the final business meeting was held, with William Hooper, of Mesquite, Texas, elected president for next year. Circus Seminars were also held and a Friendship Hour preceded the ban-

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PEOPLE

EDDIE BUSCH and **BILLY FORD**, clowns, visited the Monte Carlo Circus last month and attended the birthday party held for the show's ringmaster, Sergio.

ART EMERSON, Jr., magic dealer, inventor and performer, was just one of several magicians featured at the Oklahoma Cavalcade of Magic in June.

quet, with John Pugh, guest speaker.

A special award was presented to Frank McClosky, which was accepted for him by Paul Pugh. Frank Felt was the convention chairman, and Frank Ball was the MC.

A special thanks should go to all those who worked so hard to make the convention a success. Also to Frank McClosky and Jerry Collins, as well as the late Walter Kernin, for their faith in the tented circus in the U. S.

Oh, yes. The Circus Cinema operated every night for those who wanted to attend and some excellent movies were seen there.

THANK YOU

"**RINGLING RED**" for the largest single day sales of "SOUTHERN SAWDUST" now in its 25th year, on June 10, 1979, at The Spectrum.

SPECIAL THANKS to all show performers on: Hamid-Morton, Royal Hanneford, Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros., Monte Carlo, Ringling Blue and Hoxie Bros. Also for the support of the 1979 C. F. A. Convention at Gettysburg, Pa.

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