



AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
9th Year

Number 44

November 3, 1980



THE FLYING PADILLAS

Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus - Blue Unit

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BY LLOYD E. JONES

Well, the trip to Smogville was worth it! We not only saw a good "It's Magic" show, but attended the SWAP SESSION at the Castle and also saw three performers there worth noting.

Many local magicians said they had no desire to see this 27th edition of "It's Magic" since they had seen most of the acts before. But those who attended had a fine evening of magic. Show, well attended, opens with BRANDON SCOTT and two scantily clad assistants who gyrate and do small magic ala Dracula, dim lights and light and music effects. Left me cold, but others liked it. Second was PETRICK and MIA, now familiar to many but I enjoyed because I could watch his skill at manipulating and the act seems better dressed. Others were unimpressed.

JOHN SALISE of the London Magic Circle amused with his duck that loses an eye, ala the great late French entertainer. Rate him average as well as his MC chores of the 2nd half. MARVYN ROY and wife Carol were next and gave magicians their first view of his jewel act and all were unimpressed. It lacks the sparkle (that's a joke son) of his electric light act and tricks and steals were ordinary.

ROBERT DORIAN slowed down the bill with a mental routine in which spectators made various choices and he showed all had been predicted via a taped earlier filming. Quite

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ACTS - Are you listed with us ?

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impressive but to me, ho-hum. However, the hit of the bill was SHIMADA who now did his what could be called modern act with manipulations and dove productions that NO one has ever done better. Excellent - and worth the long trip alone. A slimmed down Deanna was an asset. ALI BONGO, the eccentric English comic, who also was MC for the first half, had some funny gags and his zany actions were well received. Silly, but entertaining.

The show closed with Shimada and his dragon act. A new background and reworking make this an outstanding act worthy of Las Vegas or Paris, and follows a long run in Japan. Smoke, fireworks from the dragon and Japanese assistants made this an act to leave the theatre pleased with the whole evenings work.

Perhaps you saw the front page article in the Wall Street Journal on the Larson brothers and their enterprises. They are now big business and a credit to magic.

The Castle's SWAP MEET was fun. The big building was packed with sellers and buyers at tables, and coffee was on the house. Hot Dogs were available and they were awful! Next time I'll bring my own sandwich.

We took the opportunity to introduce our new books "The Birthday Magician's Handbook" by Dave Fiscus and "Magic on Stage" by Wally Reid. The first covers the field surprisingly well from pros and cons to getting

(Continued on Page 19)

License Plates

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Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus
Nov. 5-9 Cincinnati, Ohio

Carden-Johnson Circus
Nov. 7-9 Columbus, Ga.

Great All Amer. Youth Cir.
Nov. 7-9 San Bernardino, Ca.

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Nov. 3 Altamonte Springs
4 Tarpon Sprgs, Fla
5 Punta Gorda
6 Ft. Myers Beach
7 Naples
8-9 Deerfield Beach
— End of Season —

King Bros. Circus
Nov. 8-9 Sarasota, Fla.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
to Nov. 16 Rosemont, Ill.

Ringling-Barnum - Red
to Nov. 9 Cleveland, Ohio

Royal Hanneford Circus
Nov. 4-9 Baltimore, Md.

Royal Palace Circus
Nov. 4-8 Birmingham, Ala

TNT & Royal Olympic
Nov. 4-8 Beaumont, Texas

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Nov. 3 Boca Raton, Fla.
4 Jensen Beach
5 Tampa
6 Winter Park
7 Orlando

Texas Shrine Circus
Nov. 6-15 Ft. Worth, Texas

Wonderland Circus Revue
Nov. 3 Ruffin, SC
5 Varnville
6 Brunson
7 Ridgeland

Hubler Int'l Circus
Nov. 1-2 Troy, NY

---- MAGIC ----

Kellmar's Showtime USA
Nov. 3 Pandora, Ohio
4 No. Baltimore
5 McClure
6 Holgate
7 Deshler
8 Spencerville
— End of Tour —

Pf. Miller's Magic Time USA
Nov. 3 Falls City, Nebr.
6 Fayette, Mo.
7 Boonville
8 Independence

--- OTHER DATES ---

Michael R. Baldrige
Nov. 6 Spring Arbor, Mich
7 Grove City, Pa.
8 Pittsburgh
9 Johnstown

Century 21 Shows
to Nov. 9 Miami, Fla.

James H. Drew Exposition
Nov. 3-8 Dublin, Ga.
— End of Season —

Los Latinos
Nov. 6015 Ft. Worth, Texas

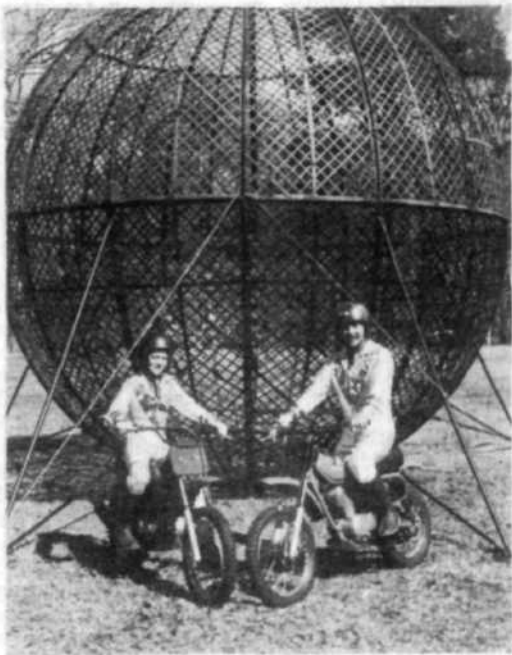
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Billy Barton

THIS COLUMN is being written towards the end of the Houston run. It is still hot down here during the daytime but it cools down enough at night for comfortable sleeping with out air conditioning. Most of us will be glad to see real fall weather for a change.

A number of acts were taken to the Houston Astrodome before the first Astro-Phillies game and those acts included ORESTO, AWADA, RON and PAM PERRY, the TANGER TROUPE, IRVING HALL, ISABELLA, PO-CO, SLO-POKE, REX and SANDY YOUNG, ringmaster ERNIE McLEAN and musicians LEO MASCITTO and STEVE LOCKWOOD.

JIM SWAFFORD made his annual pilgrimage from L.A. to Houston, then on to the GIL GRAY Circus at the Dallas Fair, stopping over in Las Vegas enroute home. RAUL PRADA and PATTI GATTI also visited, then left to catch Circus Vargas, the Dallas Fair, and Carson & Barnes. Also on tap looking over talent and visiting friends was LUCAS ATAYDE.

Juggler PICASSO visited BRIGET BALLENTINE. He had just concluded something like eight years in Las Vegas and was on his way to the Lido Club in Paris for nearly a year's run.

GUNNAR AMANDIS also came in for a quick visit and filled me in on much of his activities. He handled the bookings for the new ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY NBC movie "When The Circus Came To Town", which included the use of the Stebbings Circus. The movie is to be televised in February. Gunnar plays a cameo scene in the movie, by the way.

The Amandis Agency also set the PIRATES OF THE SKY and JOHNNY LUXEM for the CBS Circus of the Stars, and they have the ROLLING DIAMONDS at the Palace Theatre in San Juan, P.R. So far the act has been there 12 weeks.

ITEMIZING: BILL and TRUDY continue their breakdown saga when the transmission went out of their pick-up just as they pulled into the Sam Houston Coliseum Parking lot. . . Some of the talent on King Bros. Circus includes MIKE RICE with his animal acts, the SCOTT'S UNRIDEABLE MULE (and boxer dogs), ALBULET BROS, hi-wire/motorcycle, the GAONAS flying/teeterboard acts; NAN-

CY GIORDANO, CO CO and COCONUT, The DAVISONS, the GREAT SEBASTIAN, EDDIE SCHMIDT's tigers, a six piece band and other acts that Gunnar Amandis (who gave me the rundown) couldn't remember. .

WADE BURCK parked for a few minutes in a no-parking zone to make a hurry-up purchase and emerged to find his truck impounded. Wife MARGARET came on during Houston and soon the Burcks will have a new baby. By the end of the year it looks like . .

YOLANDA ZOPPE played six weekends at something called the 14th Century Renaissance Festival, held in Houston, with a bear act. . LEE and JEANETTE KEENER were in with the Diano bulls for Houston only and from there went to a date in Troy (Oh) for Hubler and the Charleston (W.Va) date for Sam T. Polack. . BUCKY STEELE and BARBARA TATA were also on tap with their bulls and will continue for the balance of the Texas dates. . . In Houston the elephant display was an impressive one with 19 bulls. .

Don't whatever you do, ask BETTY HUBER for directions! Betty, incidentally, makes an excellent homemade prune juice. . . BRIGET BALLENTINE looks hardly old enough to have an 8 yr old daughter. . LEO MASCITTO and STEVE LOCKWOOD (drummer) played the Baton Rouge Fair for Eddie Zucchini between San Antonio and Ft. Worth. . I made a mistake, it is after Ft. Worth that HERBIE WEBER flies to San Francisco for SID KELLNER. . . For the first time ever, Herbie finally did his "fake fall" on two successive nights in Houston and tore down the house; got, in fact, the biggest reaction of ANY act in the program and he was working third from closing. You just can't top the old pros.

Drawing "mini-show" duty during Houston were Ron and Pam Perry, Oresto, Isabella, Lee Keener with a baby bull, Bucky Steele with a baby bull, Davide Zoppe, Rex Young and Sandy, Irving Hall, Poco and Slo-Poke, and Herbie Weber.

For the first time in years the Shrine scheduled a jantinee on Monday and Tuesday, both shows at 1 p.m. and the shows cost more to put on than they were worth - what with the musicians, spotlight operators, clean-up men,

Bob Moore's Mongrel Revue

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ON NOVEMBER 7th

REPORT

KING BROS. CIRCUS

BY DR. PAUL FITZPATRICK

My son and I attended the King Bros. Circus at Opelika, Ala., on Sept. 13th and thoroughly enjoyed it. We were well received and had a chance to talk with Ned Toth, Coco and son (clowns), Charlie Stevenson (bandmaster) to Mike Martin (announcer) and several other performers I had met over the years, including Mike Rice and his wife Randy.

Shows were at 4:30 and 8 p.m. and they had a ¼ house for the opening show, with a full house at night. There were a number of acts some working one show and not the other and they were juggled around for each presentation.

They have a flying act, single traps, clowns, elephants, dog and pony, trampoline, juggler and so on. There was some confusion due to a lack of organization, but they put on a real great show.

The band is all circus and even though some of the members are new to working under a tent they do a superb playing job. Both Horst Geyer, tuba, and Charlie Stevenson, baritone, are pros.

The lighting started out disorganized, but had improved by the time we saw the show. They opened in Ozark, Ala. on Sept. 10th, and Ned Toth plans a full season next year.

Their tent is the old King top of some 3 seasons back. They are using an old Beatty-Cole marquee, side show, etc. There is a brand new concession trailer, first used at this date and three new Int'l trucks. The pole truck and generator are from the old King show.

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MAILBAG

FROM CHECKERS AND PATCHES

Acts for the Dr. Pepper Circus at the State Fair of Texas, in Dallas, included: Jimmy Hall's Bears; The Ramos Family; Sir Lance- lot, risley; the Checkers and Patches Canine Revue; The Olmedas; The Gutis Family; Pete and Petrova, cradle; The Swaying Stars (by the Coca Cola stage); Bill and Carol Golden, elephants; and both of the Hall families baboon acts. Clown Alley featured Checkers (Steve Baker) and Patches (Gary Ray), plus Paulo (Paul Neibauer) and Phillippe (Phil Shear). Cleo Plunkett was the singing ringmaster.

The show ran Oct. 3 thru Oct. 19th and was produced by Gil Grey.

Sales and promotion of our new book "The Adventures of Checkers and Patches" has been very successful. Autograph sessions in conjunction with personal appearances have been planned for the Christmas season.

While in New York promoting the book we visited with our friend and business associate, Josh Silver, who runs the big apple talent agency called Joshola Entertainment. Included in the visit was a chance to see the show "Barnum,"

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April 23 to April 26 — Indianapolis, Indiana

April 30 to May 3 — Wichita, Kansas

May 5 to May 17 — Canada

May 22 to May 24 — Minot, N. D.

•

June 5 to June 19 — Bill Kay's Shrine Circus in Idaho

+ Booked thru Amandis Agency +

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REPORT

THE BIG JOHN STRONG CIRCUS

The Big John Strong Circus was back in its hometown of Yucaipa, Calif., on Oct. 26th where the final performances of the 1980 season were presented. Thus ended what was described by Big John as "one of the most difficult years we've had since the show first went on the road."

When the circus started its 1980 tour it was on a high note, with both the program and personnel roles greatly expanded. From May to October there was a gradual decline in personnel, as one by one most of the people left for a variety of reasons. When seen last month Big John was back on the show handling the announcing and production, there were new people handling the canvas and several new people working concessions. The show continued to move smoothly, however and audiences seemed to enjoy the performance. Teardown and setup were taking about two hours each.

The end of the season program featured: Bill Schreiber, pony drill (4); Jay Evans and Flippo, juggling; Sugar & Spice, cradle; Bill and Sandy, dog acts (2 acts); Flippo and Chrissy, clown high jumping; Miss Crystal, web; Flippo, juggling and unicycle; Miguel, chair balance; Color Book Pitch; Road Runner Red, cowboy juggler; Flippo and Chrissy, long distance call; Sandy and Bill with llamas (1 each); Miguel, cloud swing; Ron and Chris with Neena the elephant.

Early in the year there was stiff competition from Circus Vargas as both shows played the same area and in some cases the same cities within a few days of each other. This fall, in the Pacific Northwest, the show ran into competition from the Gopher Daven-

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PROF. STU MILLER

port organization, again both playing the same area and cities in a sort of hop scotch fashion.

When the season first started business was good to excellent, but as the show moved into the mid-west area attendance fell off. Moving back and forth through that area the circus encountered weather problems and then as they headed west and played through Montana, that state was described as "a complete blank." Idaho was another bad state and business on the west coast had been so-so until the closing date.

There were three and four men out ahead of the show constantly and they were credited with helping to keep things going and bringing in what people did come out to the circus. John says "they worked hard and deserve a lot of praise for their efforts."

Equipment generally was in good shape and much of it still has that fresh look that was so apparent early in the year. The big top, now three years old, is showing signs of wear and John hopes to replace it next year.

"You can say we're down," Big John told CR, "but don't count me out yet! I'm feeling good and I have some exciting ideas and plans for the coming year."

Although Big John said it was too early to announce the 1981 plans, it is obvious that he is planning a new program of acts, as well as an all new promotional and advertising campaign.

FOR SALE

1979 Wells Cargo 2 ton Express Wagon. Tandem Axle, 16 ft. inside with 12 volt interior lights, side door, used very little and has been stored in Sarasota since Nov. 1979.

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REPORT

ROYAL PALACE CIRCUS

BY RICH DEPTULA

The glitter and glamour of the circus came to our mall, Sept. 25-28. In its second year here to entertain shoppers with many different acts which included uncaged leopards, clowns, dog acts and a real beautiful one finger balance display and also featuring the one arm display put on by Harry Dubsy, Jr. - it's a real wow act. The other members of the show included his mom, Gina and dad Harry. Gina has an act with a great Doberman and a toy poodle. You couldn't find a place to sit or stand with so many people watching the three shows a day in Elyria, Ohio.

The Dubsy Family (Gina, Harry and Harry, Jr.) while appearing with a show at a nearby mall helped circus fan Rich Deptula, of Lorain, Ohio, welcome in his 40th birthday with 30 other people in his circus room. The surprise party was put on by Rich's wife, Cheryl.

MAHI ANNUAL FALL SHRINE CIRCUS

The annual Mahi Fall Shrine Circus, in Florida, was produced by The Olympic International Circus, Corp. Executive producer was Eddie Zacchini, music was directed by Russell Darr, producing clowns were Danny Chapman and "Peppy" Piccard and Alfredo Landon, while Bela Ezsias handled props.

Acts listed in the program were: Connie's Bengal Leopards; The Great Venito and Miss Evening Star, single trap acts; The Plunkett Troupe, trampoline; The Great Vaclav, incline wire walk; Barbara Lee's Dog and Pony Revue; Irene and Tongo, gorilla act;

Miscellaneous

TEXAS CLOWN NOTES

Donald (Ajax) Perryman won 1st Place in the Individual Skit category at the State Fair of Texas. Second place went to Susan (Bo Bo Brown) Carona. Anthony (Freddie) Alba was the third place winner.

Anneta (Jingles) Moerbe and Cheryl (Cookie) Rogers, plus thirteen assistants and their "Miraculous Magic Box" took first place in the group skit competitions. Second place went to the Irving Methodist Church Clown Unit for its "Pulling No Punches" skit. "The Kerrville Chicken Dinner" took third place with Dan (Robo) Simpson and Chris (Mrs. Robo) Simpson, along with Susan (Tweedle Dum) Donald, all of Kerrville, Texas.

One of the planned features on Clown Day and Circus Day at the State Fair of Texas was a backyard party and photo session with the Gil Grey Circus performers and the circus clowns. This year the party was a wash-out, due to a total power-failure just before the end of the performance. The power was finally restored just in time for the 5 p.m. show. During this show the P.A. system went out.

The Berini Duo, aerial perch; The Fling Vasquez, flying act; The Olmedas Trio, unicycle; Cook's Comedy Car; Erna's Chimps and the Christine Chimps; Christopher James, wire; Schmitt's elephants; Rietta Wallenda, Goddess of the Galaxy; Great Vashek Duo, motorcycle on high wire.

There were four clown numbers in the show.

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REPORT

WONDERLAND CIRCUS REVUE

Bill Brickle's "Wonderland Circus Revue" opens its Fall/Winter tour today (Nov. 3) at Ruffin, SC. The tour runs for six and a half weeks, closing at Summerton, SC (Dec. 19) for the holidays. The show then reopens at Kingstree, SC (Jan. 12) and will continue on into March.

Acts set for the tour include: The Lee Stevens Duo, Poodles/rola bola/cloud swing; Les Duvans, rolling globes; Miss Gloria Marquez, head balance trapeze; Marycruz and Lorenzo, juggling; Lee Fong, illusions; Bill Brickle's Poodle Fantasy, and Rick Parrott, clown/unicycle.

Mike Crisco and Rick Jackson, assistants to Bill Brickle are new to the show this year. Some other new acts are expected to be added to the show line-up.

Jack and Wilma Rench are returning to the show again this year and will manage the concession operations, as in the past.

Phil Chandler & Co. is expected to join the show for its January thru March tour.

(Watch for route under 'Show Dates' column in Circus Report).

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PEOPLE

FRANK DEAN publishes a monthly newsletter about Trick and Fancy Roping. If interested write him at: P. O. Box 369, Palm-dale, Calif. 93550.

ROSA DOUGLAS and PHIL KAVANAUGH were the clowns with the Big John Strong Circus, who in addition to clowning during the show handled local press and radio work.

MONTIE MONTANA and LINDA SPARKS were married on Oct. 25th at Newhall, Calif.

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CIRCUS QUIPS

BY KARL J. BISCHOFF

THE WORST THING . . . about a showman growing old is listening to his children's advice.

WHEN THE SEASON IS OVER the hardest adjustment a band leader has to make is an acquaintance with silence.

TO A SHOWMAN there is no thing as DEFEAT there's always tomorrow.

ONE SHOWMAN COMPLAINED . . . that in a small town it's harder to fight city hall . . . because there ain't any.

I'VE MADE two kinds of money in show business said a showman . . . "The kind you TALK ABOUT and the kind you can SPEND."

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Public Notice:

This is to inform the industry that George Carden did not place the advertisement which appeared in *The Circus Report* on August 1, 1980.

Mr. Carden has not left the circus business and in fact has no intentions of doing so.

Mr. Carden has always been an active producer in the circus industry and he continues to produce Shrine Circus programs.

We regret that *Circus Report* was fooled into thinking that advertisement came from Mr. Carden and therefore apologize for any unpleasantness that may have occurred as a result of that advertisement.

. Don Marcks

THE CIRCUS DRAFT HORSE IS PRESERVED BY HIS ART WORK



Print #2—Heavy Horse Series
"Faithful Troupers"

Two Famous Ringling Percherons
"Ned" and "Sailor" about 1935
Size 14" x 20" printed on 100 lb.

white vellum stock—suitable for framing

Style "Trompe L'Oeil"—so real as to fool the eye
Price is \$10.00

The artist has captured the true draft horse's power, massiveness, strength, dependability, grace, intelligence, and energy in his drawings.

His art comes to full bloom in depicting the lifestyle of these great troupers and their drivers.

Tagged "Faithful Troupers" by all the circus pros, the draft horse (baggage stock) carried the real flavor of a great circus. "With it" from the beginning of the early wagon circus show days—their presence, working on the circus lot, railroad yards and city streets, was the action and magnificence that aroused many thousands of spectators daily to marvel and watch the circus arrive and set up in their town.

The year 1940 marked the last year of the use of this great free attraction in any numbers for the circus. The passing of Jess Adkins, whose showmanship and superb management of great circuses, and always championing the tradition and drawing power of the baggage stock, left the circus public without the teams of fours, sixes, eights and tens that were the heart and soul of the circus. Since that day the public's interest in the circus traditions, nostalgia, and old flavor has ebbed away. In the final analysis, for the public, the drawing power of the circus working horse has never been equaled.

Gone now but not forgotten—you can own this important part of the Golden Age in this series of detail prints—for the first time ever made available by the artist from his originals.

CIRCUS HORSES



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"Circus Horses"

From silhouette to finished detail
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COMMENTS FROM ART BUYERS

"Dutch Warner print so real—unbelievable." Phyllis Gmelr, Butler, Pa.

"I am delighted with your print. Thanks for 7/1000." Tom Parkinson, Savoy, Ill.

"Dutch Warner & Horses print is suggestive of Rembrandt. There is an absolute majesty of the horses." Leonard Farley, Taunton, Mass.

"You overwhelm me. The print of Dutch and Horses is magnificent." Chappie Fox, V.P., Ringling Barnum.

"I'm just thrilled with the poster art of Clyde Beatty. Thanks for sharing your wonderful art with me." David J. Tetrault, Williamsburg, Va.

"It sure is Dutch Warner—there is no doubt about it!

am just thrilled." Frank Meeker, Troy, N.Y.

"The Dutch Warner print arrived amidst all of the heavy ash from St. Helens which erupted last eve. Your beautiful print was the only bright spot in our whole day! Advice of any additional in your draft horse series." Mrs. Margaret Overly, Tillamook, Or.

Former top circus 8-Horse Drivers—Charles (Haywire) Gable (Cole Bros. Circus), Frank Selock (Ringling Bros.), Pappy Miller (Al. G. Barnes)—all agreed "this art is the way it was—because he was there."

"Best of luck in your art. I am glad you decided to make them available. Clyde Beatty poster art arrived today." Don Covington, Coronado, Ca.

The horses are just great; the insert about "Dutch" and his "Wheelers" is very well done. I hope our grandson, when he looks at your art work, will appreciate the picture of the good old days. Your admiring friend Doc William Y. Higgins, DMV (formerly of R-B Circus).

"Print #1 arrived today. Am very pleased with it. Am looking forward to more on your series of draft horses. Will be interested in everything you have on that!" Gordon C. Hulbert, Fair Hope, Ala.

"Highlight of my day when your fine print of your art on 'Clyde Beatty—Steel Arena and Animals' arrived! I am interested in any of your Heavy Horse Art Series—please send 'Dutch Warner' prints." Marv Jane Lis, St. Paul, Minn.

"Very pleased. Thank you very much. My admiration and congratulations on your beautiful work." Eddy Peleman, ~~Butler, Pa.~~

"Very interested in your circus art." Don Stacey, Twickenham, England.

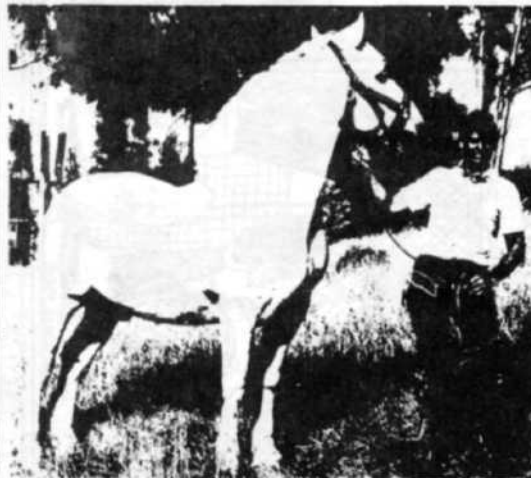
"I appreciate the beautiful Clyde Beatty—Steel Arena. Your art work is outstanding. I never saw better work!" Joe Bradbury, Atlanta, Ga.

"I was very pleased with your Clyde Beatty—Steel Arena. Please send me Beatty—Circus Kid art." Dave Thornley, New Bedford, Mass.

"Please send Dutch Warner and Horses. A really nice print." Nancy Ressler, Waterville, Vt.

"Clyde Beatty and Animals—I can't believe the quality of it and the beauty when framed." Joseph Giordano, Coram, New York.

THE DRAFT HORSE IS HIS LOVE



Booker's own faithful trouper is "Brigadoon." The inspiration to depict the draft horse in great detail by the artist is sparked by his daily conditioning, training and communications with this Gentle Giant.

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Just in from Circus Art Collector --

"All previous prints, Beatty 1 & 2, and Dutch Warner and Horses are outstanding. Hopefully, your fine art prints will be preserved in such locations as the Circus World Museum and the Ringling Museum. These are unquestionably works of art in the contemporary circus material available today." David V. Reddy, Clarklake, MI.

PEOPLE

CLARK McDERMOTT and his Cold Nose Five act will again work the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas at Christmas time.

RON and JOY HOLIDAY's act, featured at the Brighton Hotel in Atlantic City, was recently named "Best Animal Act" and "Best Costumes" by the critics of Atlantic City and Philadelphia.

MARG and DICK DEAN, magic and illusion performers, are the parents of a new son, Bruce Richard Dean, born on July 6th.

JOHN HANSEN (The Rolling Diamonds) has returned from a visit to Denmark and is now appearing at the Palace Hotel in San Juan, P.R. Also appearing there is **DIANA** the foot juggler.

Mr. and Mrs. KEITH FOX, of Sacramento, Calif., have been visiting in Sedan, Kansas, and toured the Lowry's Circus Collection in that city.

BOB OWEN, clown, visited with the McGinn family in Arizona before heading east after the 1980 season ended. He toured with the American Continental Circus this year.

EUGENE A. NOCK, Jr. has won his Private Pilots License and is studying for Instrument and Commercial flying. He recently placed 2nd in the "Mr. Suncoast" contest.

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ALFRED J. PERRY reports the former Morgan Berry elephants and **RANDY MOORE** are enroute to Kenya, Africa, where Moore has a film contract.

BOBBY REYNOLDS, side show talker participated in a festival at the Smithsonian Institute called "American Talkers" part of an American Folklore Festival special.

MIKE MARTIN has left the King Bros. Circus and is presently working for the Ray Winder Productions.

REV. AUSTIN MILES, the Show Business Chaplain, is on an evangelistic tour of Canada, North Dakota and New York.

FRED MARCO, of Cranston, R. I., visited with **FRAN** and **DON BRIDWELL** and also **HARRY BLACKSTONE, Jr.** this past month

PAUL (Abra) PARSON, Canadian magician, was in Toronto recently where **DOUG HENNING** discussed his new Broadway show musical "Merlin".

BOOK WORM (Continued)

shows, performing, handling kids - and parents, and other problems. Well worth the \$22.50 asked for it and it is Magic Limited's usual quality production.

The Reid book by a capable pro has a wide range of subjects and I'm finding out that the one chapter alone on illusions is being used by dealers to sell the book! Close-up, children's magic, even two items from the late Les Levante all in this slim (178 p) book priced at \$17.50.

We also surprised folks by showing the first copies of Abbott's new "Encyclopedia of Rope Tricks," Vol. 3. Has 11 chapters, each by a noted magician, so variety and magic is assured and this good book will be much consulted in years to come - \$27.00 (postage is \$1.03).

For performers, I was advised NOT to miss seeing JONATHAN NEAL BROWN before he left for the East Coast and I'm glad that I did. Catch him if you see his name anywhere. The simplest of props - a piece of rope, a piece of paper and two rings. Each an entertaining bit done to good music and action and entertaining. Imagine - a linking ring with TWO rings to close an act! Great! In close-up two previously unknowns to me sparkled at the table. JIM KAHLERT who is giving lessons at USC in magic, and RON SCOTT BAUER another pleasing personal-

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ity with good close-up magic.

Then it was back home and a pile of mail. We wrestled out an INTERIM sheet of books Magic Limited has for sale and stopped after filling a former Bat size 4 pages. A stamp will bring you one if interested.

More news bits are that the rumor about PETER PIT and a 26 week TV program is true. Peter joins my sweetheart SHARI LEWIS in a variety show that will take over the MUPPET SHOW spot when that favorite program closes. Already, I am told, enough stations have signed to ensure the program.

JAN GRIPPO tells me his brother JIMMY is regaining strength in his arm after his stroke a while ago. He can still do magic and many seek him out in Las Vegas.

ARNOLD FURST is again in Japan, showing off that rising star MICHAEL AMMAR, who I am sure will impress the Japanese as much as he has us.



MAILBAG

FROM ROBERTA GRIFFIN

Harold "Toby" Rosier's memorium was listed in CR's June 30th issue. His widow, Waunetta says as a result, she has had so many cards and letters that she hasn't answered yet but does want to say thanks to the many who took time to think of her.

I want to correct one small error: Harold was only 68 and not the 79 as reported in CR. (No, CR did not err, I did. I guess I was in such shock and did want Harold to live to be the 79).

Toby Rosier had perfect timing in dying. He was appearing at the library giving a lecture on Tent and Toby shows and demonstrating the makeup. Waunetta was in the audience and said she was just thinking how well the lecture was going. Toby put on his red wig, stood up, and just keeled over.

There is not a Toby in the world who would not have envied Harold Rosier's timing to pass on though he was only 68, he was ready for his curtain call on June 2, 1980.

It was only a week before rehearsals were to

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begin for his forty-sixth season of the Rosier Players. Waunetta, always at his side went into mourning for about four or five days and then started rehearsals with the 1980 company, under the direction of Gerald Blanchard of the Jackson Community College.

The 1980 production of the Rosier Players had no Toby for the first time. Waunetta did quite a bit as Miss Minerva Throttlebottom in Husbands For Sale, which was quite a hit.

The college is missing a big bet if they don't cast Michael Wright as a new 1981 Toby. He not only admired and studied for several years under Harold Rosier; He is a good comedian in his own right.

P. S. Ken and I joined the Rosier Company at the Jackson Community College for the summer of 1978. We had met Harold and Waunetta shortly after they had purchased the Jack Collier outfit. Joe and Marion Mc Kennon had told us how Harold "was one talented Toby" but sometimes you have to see it to believe. I am proud to say I worked with him.



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HOTLINE

Oct 5 - Don Bridwell (*Whizzer the clown*) escaped serious injury when, after completing a clown date at Springfield, Ohio, and enroute back to Columbus, he was involved in a 3 car accident. Bridwell's car was badly damaged and one of the other cars was totalled.

Oct. 21 - Billy Barton left the Texas Shrine Circus to fly home to Greencastle, Pa., where his mother was seriously ill

REPORT

GREAT AMERICAN CIRCUS

BY CIRCUS JOE VALENCIANO

This writer kept wondering about Hoxie's No. 2 unit, The Great American Circus, because all summer there had been no write-up on the show, just one, early in the year.

On Oct. 13th, at Bartow, Fla., I had a chance to see the show for myself. It was the last day of the season and the show looked good, with the paint still bright, and all 9 trucks were good, and not small ones either.

The big top was in very good condition for the season's end. It had no large holes and I could see only a few small ones. The top was a four pole tent with a three ring format and 9 high blues.

The midway had a large concession trailer,

MAILBAG

from Jan and Tom Wilds

The Wild's Animals have moved their traveling zoo and animal collection to a new and permanent winter quarters just six miles above Mosier, Oregon.

Barn, sheds and shop are presently being refurbished. The pastures, one of which opens into a spring feed pond, will be refenced. Future developments include a parking area which will welcome all animal show folks traveling through the Columbia River Gorge. (1-84).

In their spare time the Wilds are also working on a second unit for their popular Pacific Northwest animal attractions; which appears at major fairs and community events.

While it will not be the formal name for the ranch, Wilds wants to put up a sign that says "End of the Season Ranch."

The new address is: P. O. Box 553, Mosier, Ore. 97040.

with office on one side, and a side show on the other side. Side Show top was a square end with an old fashioned banner line out front, consisting of five banners.

Music was provided by an organ. Among the performers were the Diaz Family, Bonnie Bonta, the Lang Family and clown Buck Nolan.

My family and I had a great time chatting with old friends, and a special thanks to Omar for showing me around the lot.

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NOTE: Japan has just passed a law similar to the animal regulations in the U. S.

As of Oct. 1st, all owners of wild animals are required to have a Special Permit License, it is available if you have a legitimate reason for owning the animals. Those employed in the entertainment business are able to acquire a permit without much trouble. Henceforth it will be impossible to have a wild animal as a pet.

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1968 - Apr. 10 - Ken Jensen
1969 - Apr. 7 - Reppines International
1970 - Apr. 9 - Reppines International
1971 - Apr. 8 - Reppines International
1972 - Apr. 14 - Reid Bros.
1973 - Apr. 13 - Reid Bros.
1974 - Apr. 26 - Grand Circus Safari
1975 - May 16 - Grand Circus Safari
1976 - May 22 - Grand Circus Safari
1977 - May 13 - Grand Circus Safari
1978 - May 12 - Grand Circus Safari
1979 - Apr. 20 - Grand Circus Safari

(Note: Dates from 1968 to 1977 were all at the High School Gym. In 1978 and 1979 the show played at the Jr. High School Gym).



REPORT

HUMANE SOCIETY CONVENTION

Some 350 people attended the annual convention of the Humane Society of the United States, held in San Francisco, Oct. 15-18.

During the four day meet the organization outlined several problems it hopes to tackle in the coming years. These include: (1) the Draize test, wherein perfume, deodorant, shampoo, cleaners, etc., are placed into the eyes of rabbits to see if they burn, blind or irritate; (2) Animal Farming, especially the poor conditions in which young calves are kept before being shipped to market; (3) Dog Fighting, this bloody sport has increased tenfold in popularity and now involves thousands of people; (4) Pre-race Drugging of race horses; (5) Elimination of ill-staffed roadside zoos and menageries.

The convention also included a variety of workshops, a book sale, a film festival and lectures.

A major speaker at the convention was Ms. Sue Pressman, director of wild life protection

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for the Humane Society of the United States. Although based in the Washington, DC, office, her job takes her wherever there is a need for animal protection rights.

She told the convention how she had rescued a tiger which was to have been pitted against a karate expert. The tiger, she said, had been starved and was blind. The karate expert was planning to beat it to death. Today that tiger is living in the San Diego Zoo.

Ms. Pressman describes her job as one that requires her "to look into animal situations that animals and ourselves get into."

Her work takes her to zoos and circuses and almost anywhere animals are found. "Out of sheer ignorance, many of these animals end up in dire straits, sometimes."

During the convention Ms. Pressman conducted workshops on zoos, exotic pets and animals in entertainment.



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PEOPLE

ENRIQUE WALLEDA, grandson of the late Karl Wallenda, successfully completed a 10 story skywalk in San Juan, P.R., last month.

The walk between the Condado Holiday Inn two wings, was the same walk that killed Karl Wallenda some two years ago.

The event was not highly publicized in advance because it was filmed for an NBC-TV special which is to be aired this month.

There was very little wind to bother him and the walk was accomplished, with a net set up under the wire.

Miscellaneous

A NIGHT OF TATTOOS

The night of Oct. 30th, Oakland, Calif., was the host city for a special "Living Art" tattoo exhibition which was held at the Coffee Mill.

Both those who have tattoos and those who do tattooing attended the event. A special guest was Chuck Eldridge, who has been featured by Esquire magazine for the tattoos he has.

Some of the name people attending the big event were: D. E. Hardy, Henry Goldfield, Moses, Dean Dennis, Greg Irons and Jack and Eileen Massey, of San Francisco; Ken Larsen and Bill Odom, from Sacramento; and Jack Rudy and Mike Brown, of Los Angeles.

MAILBAG

FROM WILLIAM WOTSCHE

Cathy Rigby, who played the part of Jana Schmidt in the movie "The Great Wallendas" appeared at our Cleveland Arena in 1973.

She was Peter Pan in the large touring show. A special harness was used for her "flying", controlled from a central board with lots of buttons. She flew on an apparatus with wheels which travelled around a track hung from the ceiling.

On Saturday and Sunday a caterer brought in food for the cast as there was never enough time to go out, eat and get back for the next show.

Miscellaneous

ROPE SPINNING WINNERS

One of the features of the Old Timers Rodeo Association finals rodeo, at Las Vegas, Nev., on Oct. 10-13 was the rope spinning event.

Winners in that competition were:

- 1st Place - Larry Lewis
- 2nd Place - Sylvester Braun
- 3rd Place - Frank Dean

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

etc. It was a mistake that probably won't be repeated next year.

Visitors up to this column time were: Patti Gatti, Raul Prada, Lucas Atayde, Picasso, Sandy Fulbright, Ronnie Lewis, Gunnar Amundis, Slick Valentine, members of the Charles Troupe, Jimmy Hamid, Bill and Ted Hill (who flew down to catch the big game between the Astros and the Phillies), Jim Swafford, Yolanda Zoppe, Brian Zoppe and Austin Circus Chairman Alfred O. Tramp.

The GUTIS Family, who played the Dallas Fair and then went to Florida for a few weeks before they start their Christmas shows, write they will play Milwaukee, Chicago and Green Bay in 1981 for Eddie Zucchini. Daughter Heidi visited during their run at the fair in West Springfield, Mass. and made a one show appearance in the act before leaving to rejoin

her husband JIM GROGAN. Elvira remarks it was like old times. A sad note is that Charlie's mother passed away Sept. 25th. Those of you who remember Mama Gutis as the stooge in the original Gutis Act will remember how wonderfully funny that grand lady was. To the Gutis I tender my sincere condolences.

Those flimsy plywood dressing rooms built in the hallways in Houston to house performers finally provided us with our first good laugh of the season when a baby elephant, rounding the corner to enter the arena, demolished BOB ATTERBURY's dressing room and a passing performer (who shall remain nameless, of course) wisecracked: "Too bad he wasn't in it."

SEE YOU down the road, luvs.

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REPORT**CIRCUS VARGAS**

BY HARRY L. KINGSTON

Circus Vargas played Beaumont, Texas, Oct. 6-8, to excellent crowds. And the only thing missing this year was Walt Mattheie. I really missed him and all of his circus yarns.

It was my pleasure to arrow the Vargas show into the Beaumont lot, and I had learned a lot from Walt.

On the way into Beaumont a driver wrecked the pickup that pulled the trailer containing aerial equipment for the Vargettes.

Rex Williams was in the hospital in Shreveport, La., as the Saturday morning they were there he just couldn't get out of bed. He was back on the lot in Beaumont on Oct. 8th.

Tex Dreyfus, the Houston, Texas, elephant lover, was on the lot for the set up and then stayed for the opening show.

The date was promoted by Steve Echols and he did a bang-up job. Bill Biggerstaff was his always nice self, and had just bought 50 new Video tapes for the show's movie club. Anyone having circus tapes for trade or sale really ought to look up Bill.

PEOPLE

GERALD KOSKY was honored at a reception at the Magic Castle on Oct. 19th. Many old friends showed up to greet Gerald and par-take of Champagne and honor him.

Smiling MARVIN BURGER, of S.F.'s House of Magic is mentioned in the local Sunday pictorial and given a three column photo. Publicity doesn't hurt anyone.

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Notice:

At press time Billy Barton's mother continues to remain on the critical list.

Due to his mother's health problems Billy Barton's column will probably be delayed for the next few weeks.