



6th Year

October 3, 1977

Number 40

Show Goes On

True to tradition the Happytime Circus continues its daily schedule of performances although owner/producer Dave Twomey is hospitalized in Tacoma, Wash., recovering from a ruptured appendicitis attack. The show recently wound up a weekend engagement at Newark, Calif., and is currently playing at the fair in Bakersfield. The next date starts late this week where the show will be a feature of the fair at Fresno.

This is the first time in the 18 years that Dave has operated his own show that he has missed a performance. However, the show has been moving along smoothly with extra work on the part of the family - Judy, Mike and Kenny, plus the help of Wally, Czigi and Toby Bickmore, Jack and Brenda Saxon, Tim Strauch and Dale and Elaine Lorzo.

Dave "Happy the Clown" became ill while visiting fellow showman Don Moyer in Tacoma, while on a booking tour in the Pacific Northwest. After being admitted to the hospital Dave underwent three days of testing, fol-

lowed by exploratory surgery. It was then that doctor's

lowed by exploratory surgery. It was then that physicians discovered the seriousness of his illness and found that infection had already begun to spread throughout his body. He continues to remain in isolation, which will be followed by a lengthy period of rest and recuperation.

AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS

Paul V. Kaye

HOLLYWOOD ELEPHANTS

Contact

PAUL V. KAYE

Suite 519 • 1680 North Vine Street • Hollywood, California • 90028

Area Code 213 • 462-6001

Show Acts

The program offered by the Emmett Kelly, Jr., Circus at Brentwood, L.I. (Aug. 30-Sept. 5) under canvas, featured: Pat Anthony, lions and tigers; Veno Venito, swords; Emmett Kelly, Jr.; The Cyclonians, unicycles; Doubleday & Co., aerial gorilla parody; The Smahas, horses; The Ashtons, risley; Los Comancheros, double trap and Vashek and Kathy, high wire. The show's ringmaster was Charley Van Buskitk. (Vashek and Kathy worked outside)

The program presented for the "Small Fry Circus" (Jack McCarty), sponsored by the Kiwanis Club at Little Rock, Ark., (Sept. 10) featured: The Juggling Jacksons, juggling; Doubleday & Co., aerial gorilla parody; La Vonne (Johnson), break-away cloud swing; Ceasar, unrideable mule (Bisbini); Hunkie Johnson's bears; Los C. andos, high wire; The Bisbinis, unsupported ladders; Carlos Duo, perch; Carmen del Molino, tight wire; Los Comancheros, double trap; Hunkie's comedy whips; Los Espanos, flying act.

PEOPLE

PRINCE BOGINO and his lions have several independent dates set for the fall and winter season after closing with Garden Bros.

PAUL HUDSON, formerly of Ringling-Barnum and the Freedom Train, has joined the Carson & Barnes Circus as a member of the show staff.

BILL PATTERSON (The Great Mayo) recently worked on Sept. 16-17 at the Park Plaza Shopping Center in San Pedro, Calif.

PETER WALKER will join Carson & Barnes Circus this week to do pictorial work on the many show trucks for the 1978 season.

DAVE TWOMEY (Happy the Clown) is hospitalized at: St. Joseph's Hospital, 1718 South 'I' St., Tacoma, Wash. 98405. Rm. 7-A-4.

AVAILABLE

CIRCUS ORGANIST after Nov. 1st.

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Shrine Dates

The Shrine Circus, produced by Sam T. Polack, at Wilmington, N.C. (Sep. 14), Fayetteville, N. C. (Sep. 17) and Durham, N. C. (Sep. 18) featured:

Miguel, tightwire; Lilli-Ana, leopards; The Bertinis, aerial perch with breakaway; Cimse dogs; Clowns, levitation; Christopher James, tightwire; Fulbrights, dressage horses; Clowns giraffe; Obandos, high wire; Miss Carolina; Sandy's ponies; Senorita Margarita, hair hang; Clowns, boxing; Erna's chimps; Carlos Duo, perch; The Plunketts, trampoline; Rex Williams, elephants; Espanas, flying act.

Included in the show staff were: Al Dawley, ringmaster; Ron Kilroy, prop boss; John Asbury, bandleader; John MacKay, producing clown.

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*** UNDER THE BIG TOP ***

On Aug. 21st, the Dixiana Circus played in Breaux Bridge, La. The weather was the worst this community had seen in a long time, yet the house was packed to the ring curbs. What happened after the opening whistle blew was really a delightful surprise.

The Dixiana Circus is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Luvas and family. It is not a huge conglomeration such as some shows are, and it doesn't travel much out of the deep South. The Dixiana show is a real family show, traveling on four or five trucks. They have a nice clean big top with much of the style of European circuses.

The show's tent seats about 1500 people and is a bale ring top. Their colors are blue, white orange and red. They use jacks and stringers, five high for seating. A drop curtain at the main entrance and for the performers entrance lends to an atmosphere of beauty and class. The ring curbs are well done and lighting is adequate. Music for the show was taped, but a good selection of music was used, with a fine sound system.

The show opens with a spec featuring the entire cast. This was followed by a cradle act featuring Peter Luvas and his daughter. While the act was unable to work as high as the famous

Luvas act normally works, the audience was thrilled by the aerial maneuvers seen sort of close-up. Following this Bill Slator and family presented a good dog and goat act, which combines both comedy and skill. Peter's daughters come back to do other numbers, including a sublime web number that is unparalleled. I ask you, how many times do you see a good iron jaw number on a small circus? The Luvas family offers such a number that uses dance and skill to the maximum.

The second half of the program opened with Madame Luvas and her Poodle Revue. I have never seen a more graceful and elegant act. The wardrobe and props are unbelievable for a show of this size and Madame Luvas only heightens this with one of the most striking dog acts in the business. The Slator family returns for a number on unsupported ladders, as well as a slack wire number that was well received. The clowns do an exceptional job and a new act was added by Jeff Chalmers using balancing swords and knives. There were two juggling routines that were all well presented.

The highlight of the show was the work of a baby African elephant named Kenya. This animal captured the hearts of the audience and was really an entertainer. Not only does she do the standard routines, she also plays the harmonica, rings bells and waves her trunk in a greeting to one and all. Peter's youngest daughter performs with Kenya and seeing the two children work together is a warm touch in a very good show.

There is one break in the program for a fifteen minute intermission, to change some rigging and for the color book sale. There were both novelties and concessions but there was no constant hawking and pitches. Prices were realistic and people felt they had gotten their money's worth.

The Dixiana Circus has a warmth and charm that is lacking in many of our shows in the business. They realize that being honest and fair with the sponsor, as well as the public, is the only way to make a success of a very tough business.

Because of the quality of the show as well as the genuine desire of all connected with it to please the sponsor as well as patrons, the Dixiana Circus is winning more and more contracts

(Continued on Page 31)

FOR SALE

CIRCUS OF ¼ CENTURY AGO

Important items from my collection of circusiana now on file in Hawaii.

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ROUTES

Arabia Shrine Circus
Oct. 6-10 Houston, Texas

Bentley Bros. Circus
Oct. 8-9 Johnstown, Pa.

Circus Vargas
Oct. 5-9 Yonkers, N. Y.

Fair Circus
to Oct. 10 Danbury, Conn.

Hall & Christ Circus Unique
Oct. 7-23 Dallas, Texas

Happytime Circus
Oct. 4-16 Fresno, Calif.

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Oct. 4 Gastonia, N.C.
5 Chester, S. C.
6 Spartanburg
7-8 Travelers Rest
9 Greenwood

Hoxie's Great American Circus
Oct. 3 Marshall, Pa.
5-6 Lynchburg
7 Lexington
8 Clifton Forge

Wm. Kay Circus
Oct. 4-5 Mobile, Ala.

King Bros. Circus
Oct. 3 Donaldsonville, La.
4 Bogalusa
5 Pearl

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Oct. 4-9 Indianapolis, Ind.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
Oct 6-16 Denver, Colo.

Royal Danish Circus
Oct. 8-15 Halifax, N. S.

Sells & Gray Circus
Oct. 3 Columbia, Mo.
4 Sedalia
5 Boonville
6 Cedar City
7 Warrensburg
8 Harrisonville
9 Garnett, Kans.

John Strong Circus
Oct. 3 Lakeport, Calif.
4 Willits
5 Ukiah
6 Healdsburg
7 Petaluma
8 Napa
9 Milpitas

Swan Bros. Circus
Oct. 9 Folsom, Calif.

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus
Oct. 5-9 Macon, Ga.

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
Oct. 3-8 Warner Robbins, Ga.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit
Oct. 3-8 Laurel, Miss.

James H. Drew Shows
Oct. 3-8 Cartersville, Ga.

Foley & Burk Shows
Oct. 4-16 Fresno, Calif.

The Gong Show
Oct. 4 Roseburg, Oregon

Lee Grabel Illusion Show
Oct. 3 Davis, Calif.
4 Fremont
5 Sunnyvale
6-7 San Jose
8 Saratoga

Imperial Circus Seminar
Oct. 7-8 Indianapolis, Ind.

Magicazm Show
Oct. 4 Ukiah, Calif.,
6-10 San Jose

James E. Strates Show
to Oct. 8 Winston-Salem, N. C.

Tannen's Magic Jubilee
Oct. 7-9 Loch Sheldrake, N.Y.

This Is Hawaii . . . On Ice
Oct. 5-9 Canberra, Aust.

2

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BILLY BARTON

STAGG McMANN is not only one of the finest harmonica virtuosos around, but he is also a very funny man. I had the pleasure of dressing with him at the A.N.E. in St. John (NB) and his droll sense of humor had me laughing all week. Stagg has worked with virtually every great musician, comedian and night club star in the business, has anecdotes about each. Two of his more humorous tales deal not with human, but with animal actors — the “trained” pelican, for example, that flew from a balcony to the theatre stage landing short of its destination on a woman’s head; or . . . the seal Stagg appeared with at a California beach: no sooner did the animal smell the sea water than it undulated off the stage, across the sand, and into the ocean, never to be seen again. Stagg should write a book.

THE NBC SPECIAL on the life of Karl Wallenda is to be filmed in Sarasota this month. In this full length movie Karl is expected to re-create the famed 7 person pyramid.

SNAPSHOTS: The late HUGO SCHMITT, who spent 23 years on Ringling, once gained national media attention when he escorted 29 bulls thru New York City’s Lincoln Tunnel. . . . FLO OLSON, barmaid at Showfolks, visited brother GUY in Switzerland this summer. . . . BILL KAY will produce the Albany (NY) Shrine date, formerly held by Polack. . . . After 13 weeks at Storytown USA, the Tommy Hanneford Circus finally got a day off but everyone was too sick with cold and fever to enjoy it. . . . The Royal Hanneford produced Thrill Show at the Minnesota State Fair was so successful, GLENN PARKINS re-signed the event for ‘78. . . . Illusionist RAY ORSZAK (also ringmaster with R-H) was in New York City recently squiring Broadway actress HOPE LANGE about town. . . . HOXIE TUCKER is back at the Command Post on his big show. . . . The tent used by EMMETT KELLY, Jr., Circus at Louisville was too low for the FLYING VALENTINES who were compelled to bow out. . . . It’s been reported that VENO VENITO and wife, KAROL, have separated. . . . Bandleader CHARLIE SCHLARBAUM is using a BARBARA TAGGART tune, “Clowning”, for a special production with TOMMY HANNEFORD.

UNDER THE HEADING “if you want something done right, do it yourself,” LILLI KRISTENSEN became so frustrated with delays of animal permits from Washington when she was crossing into Quebec, that she and SVEND drove to the border where Lilli

took a cab into Canada and there sat in an office for hours fixing her papers. Her permits from D.C. finally arrived, two weeks AFTER she had played the date.

NEWS BITS: ERIK ADAMS closed with Garden Bros. the ALBERTO ZOPPE Troupe joined the show. . . . JEANNETTE RIX and TONY SMAHA, Jr. will exchange “vows” in November or December, prior to Jeannette’s stint with CIRCO ATAYDE. Following the Mexican Circus date, the pair will go to Germany. . . . HERBIE WEBER and MARSHA HUNT played the Rocky Hill State Fair (R.I.) with concessions and an elephant ride. . . . The DUBSKY’s Royal Palace Circus was at a mall in Warwick, 10 miles away. . . . SIMONE FINNER caught KIM KRISTENSEN’s new dressage act at Victoriaville (Quebec). . . . On that fair date for GASTONI were LILLI-ANA and the STRAZZANS (Bertinis) aerial act. . . . TINO and OLINKA ZOPPE are expecting their second child in February and hope it will be a boy. . . . OTTO HERMANN passed away on Aug. 4 and we’re sorry to hear that. . . . A TV Special with TONY CURTIS and GUNTHER WILLIAMS will be aired late this year. . . . HARRY THOMAS was spotted visiting Ringling Red, and SMOKEY JONES was seen visiting JOHNNY HERRIOTT before Johnny flew to the Ringling Thrill Show date where he was joined by MARY RUTH. . . . GUNTHER WILLIAMS has healed from the clawing he received from the roll-over tiger (same routine in which TAJANA was clawed).

FOX “tracks”: The producer of the Karl Wallenda Special asked JENNY who she would like to play her, and Jenny replied: MARLO THOMAS. . . . The “rain in Spain” is NOT in Spain, sez the Fox, but has been too long in Sarasota which was flooded by the overwash. . . . KARL WALLEENDA was a feature at the Ringling Columbus Thrill Show which caused one wag to remark: “Apparently Ringling has lifted its age ban from 30 to 70!” . . . DELILAH’s new baby was front-paged at the Wheeling Shrine date with great-grand-daddy Karl teaching the tot to balance. . . . At Showfolks, a concessionaire (who’ll remain nameless) was rattling off a list of stands he would have at the Miami-Tampa football game when everyone laughed. Turned out he was a day late — as he was itemizing his stands the game was taking place. . . . ADELE & GORY played fairs in New England, ditto CARLA WALLEENDA. . . . Producer LEONARD GREEN has moved to Florida. Getting away from it all (literally) Prince Najvez spent

(Continued on Page 28)



I would like to thank the following people for their help and encouragement during my first season:

Ossian and Em Wirengard

Gunnar Amandis
 Albert Sahlstrom
 Abe Ford
 Billy Barton
 Bill Kormpates

Ed Migley
 Don E. Johnson
 Al Martin
 Norma Fox
 Ken Thomas

— Am interested in dates for the remainder of this year —

R. D. 4, Nash Road
 Bath, New York - 14810

Contact: JERRY BEEMAN

Phone: (607) 776-2450

YEARS AGO

Sells Floto Circus - 1931
Pittsfield, Mass.

The show's advance car was here on May 16th and it is painted all red.

The Sells Floto Circus arrived here early on May 30th, coming in from Albany, N. Y., in one train of 33 cars (8 horse cars, 16 flat cars, 9 sleepers, plus 66 wagons, 14 cages).

The show's colors are red and yellow; the sleepers are green; horse cars and flat cars are yellow, wagons red.

The tents include: big top, 6 poles; menagerie 5 poles; side show 4 poles; dressing top 6 poles; two horse tents; dining tent, cookhouse; two candy stands, concession tops.

The side show has 15 banners, bally stand, two ticket boxes, Mind Reader, Snakes, Sword Swallower, Midget, Giant, Armless, Fat Lady, Tattooed, Human Skelton, Escape Artist, Bird Girl, Tony, the Wonder Horse, Hawaiians, Band

and Minstrels, plus Scotch pipers, Punch and Judy.

Wagons include: two ticket wagons, two light plants, four cookhouse wagons, two canvas wagons, poles, stringers, seat planks, chairs, triple stake driver, single stake driver, two tractors, train light plant, Funny Ford, Ford Touring car, Express Truck, Brewery Wagon.

In the Menagerie are: 10 cages, 15 elephants, 10 camels, hippo, two seals, birds, monkeys, lions, tigers, hyenas, puma, emu.

Two shows were presented to good crowds. It was a fairly good day up to dinner time when a heavy shower came up which lasted until after the night show started. Then it rained off and on for the rest of the evening.

At 6 p.m. the cookhouse and horse tents were taken down and after the big show started the menagerie and side show tents came down. The big top was down and loaded by midnight and everything was on the train by 2 a.m.

The circus played at Boston on June 1-6, setting up at Sullivan Square. This engagement was in conjunction with the CFA Convention.

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 IAN GARDEN - Garden Bros. Circus
 STU MILLER - Magic Time U. S. A.
 WHITEY BLACK - King Bros. - Cole Circus
 D. R. MILLER - Carson & Barnes Circus
 GEORGE HUBLER - Syracuse Shrine Circus
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GROTTO SHOW

The Sept. 10th, Lalla Rookh Grotto Circus was produced by George Hubler and presented at the Auditorium Theatre in Rochester, N. Y. All three performances were well attended.

The program featured: Jeannette and Albert Rix, bears; Joe Sherman, clown balloon gag; The Bumpy Family, acrobats; Donna Wilson, single trapeze; Susan Sheryll's Afghans; The Clown Wedding; Johnny Laddie & Co., unsupported ladders.

The second half of the show included: Los Latinos, tightwire; Clowns and Dog Pie; Aerial ballet with Princess Sonja on web; The Stevens on trampoline; Kneisley Duo, aerial cradle and Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys.

Clown Alley included: Joe Sherman (producing)

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PEOPLE

ART BARRETT has contracted the entire state of Washington for production of an Elks Club Circus during July and August of 1978.

WILMA RENCH, organist and musical director for Famous Hunt, jumped 3,100 miles in three days to join the American Continental Circus at Lethbridge, Canada.

with Prof. Hardy (Wayne Liikala) and Bubba Hastings.

The band consisted of: Bill Fisher, trumpet; Phil Sauvageot, organ and Ron Rose, drums.

.... Bill Galloway

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PEOPLE

JOHN CAMPBELL has returned to the hospital in Minneapolis for further surgery necessitated by injuries received while working with the Rex Williams elephants.

RICH and CHERYL DEPTULA (Lorain, Ohio) hosted a dinner party for several Beatty-Cole people in their circus room last month. Among those attending were: DAVE, LOIS, GEORGE HOOVER, FRED LOGAN and Family, LARRY BEARD, P.R. man, and Clowns JULIUS BAUMANN, Jr., and JIM LANDY, PAUL ACKER, CHERIE CUNNINGHAM and BRAD STEWART.

DON and FRAN BRIDWELL (Whizzer and Spunky) play the Danbury, Conn., Fair Circus Oct. 1-10 along with PAUL (Abra) PARSONS, advance clown for Garden Bros.

PAUL PARSONS, (Abra, the Magic Clown) advance bill poster for Garden Bros. Circus, will have his own magic/illusion show playing several dates in Canada this fall and winter.

Show Organist, Comedy Chimps, Poodles, Announcer. Wilson, Box 1167, Concord, N. C. 28025. (704) 786-4536

In Memoriam

MRS. IDA ROSENTHAL, mother of Mrs. Edna Antes, secretary of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus, passed away on Aug. 30th, after a short illness. Burial was in Monroe, Wis.

BOB and ROSA GIBBS closed at the Circus World Museum on Sept. 11th and opened with the "Texas dates" on Sept. 12th. During the last week of the Museum's season elephants from Carson & Barnes were used in the show (Gus, Bombay and Ramar). They were returned to the C&B Circus at Euclid, Ohio.

Bob and Rosa, who will be touring with Circus Girard in 1978, have sold all of their Petting Zoo. Among those on hand for the closing show at the Museum were: Kathy and Marie Thielitz, Manuel King, Kaye and Gerry Scheiman, and "Tex" Dreyfus.

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PEOPLE

JOHN HEFFELFINGER, a professional snake handler, was listed in critical condition after he was bitten by an Egyptian cobra during a performance at the fair in Sequin, Texas, last month.

DAVE MERRIFIELD, helicopter trapeze act, will be featured at the Alabama State Fair in Birmingham on Oct. 6-15.

DOLLY JACOBS, aerial ring act, and the **FLYING SEGURAS** have been invited to participate in the annual Monte Carlo Circus Festival. Both acts are with Ringling-Barnum's Red Unit.

THE GUTIS FAMILY with their Jungleland comedy act are appearing at the Fair in Topsfield, Mass. on Oct. 1-10.

HENRY F. BARRETT reports that **SAM T.**

POLACK will be producing the Shrine circus at both Salt Lake City and Ogden (Utah) for 1978.

JANET and **FRANK BURGER** had their animals at the National Cattle Congress in Waterloo, Iowa, then jumped into St. Paul, Minn., for a one day stand, followed by an Oct. 8-9 engagement at Johnstown, Pa.

CLARK McDERMOTT and his Cold Nose Five canine act were featured at the Pet Fair in San Jose, Calif., this past weekend.

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

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Musical Review

The following musical program for the J. P. Booker's Early American Circus was compiled by Mark A. Gee for the show's Aug. 29-Sept. 5 engagement in San Mateo, Calif.

OVERTURE -

Ringling Bros. Grand Entry

SPEC -

Early American Circus March

HARRY THOMAS - Tigers

Jesus Christ Superstar

Theme from 2001

Theme from Swat

Theme from Star Wars

CLOWNS -

Merry Widow Waltz

Rock Around the Clock

SUE McMILLAN - tiger, dog, horse

Swat

Theme from Mission Impossible

Lawrence of Arabia

MARK'S SLACK ROPE -

Over The Rainbow

My Favorite Things

CLOWNS -

Hot Time In Town Tonight

Pink Panther

JESSIE'S BAREBACK ACT -

Thank Heavens for Little Girls

Isn't She Lovely

CLOWNS -

Hakensack

TEX'S CHIMP -

Theme from Patty Duke Show

Daisy Daisy

Satin Doll

CHRIS - Juggler

If I Were A Rich Man

Maple Leaf Rag

Entertainer

YOUNG DUO - Cradle

(own music)

Godfather

Sunshine of My Life

INTERMISSION -

Billboard March

TINA'S PETS -

Candy Man

My Cheri Amour

CHRIS - Slack Wire

Sleep

My Favorite Things

Tell Me Your Dreams

VICKIE'S PONIES -

March of the Toys

Three Blind Mice

Chim Chim Cheree

Theme from Bonanza

MISS EVITA - single trapeze

Where Is The Love

Masquerade

Wedding of the Winds

JEFFRIES SEALS -

Star Wars

It's Going to Be A Long Time

Isn't She Lovely

LANI'S DRESSAGE HORSE

Cabaret

March of the Toys

Spinning Wheel

ZAMUDIO'S HIGH WIRE -

Ringling Bros. Grand Entry

Theme from Rocky

Saturday in the Park

La Fiesta

WILD WEST & ANNOUNCEM'TS

Coming Around the Mountain

Back In The Saddle Again

Release Me

Yellow Rose of Texas

Walking the Floor Over You

Wabash Cannon Ball

I'm An Old Cowhand

The show's band included:

Mark A. Gee - leader/sax

Louis Musser - trumpet

Walter Ross - electric piano

Martin Souverbielle - drums

Big John A. Strong

➔ **PLEASE** ➔

Contact:

TIM or EARL TEGGE
c/o Linda Miller
2741 North Lockwood
Chicago, Illinois - 60639

Phone: (312) 622-0284

— REGARDING UPCOMING DATES —

Tour Ends

Garden Bros. Circus wound up its 1977 tour at St. John's, Nfld., on Sept. 16-18. The season began in Montreal in March and included a first-ever train trip to Labrador City, Labrador, in August to play that city. All-in-all the season was a good one with many dates up in attendance over that of last year.

The show's staff includes: Ian M. Garden, owner; Paul Parsons, advance clown; Ray Foley, show manager; Frank Dailey, Gen. Supt.; Leo Mascitto and Michelle Dulfors, music; Don (Whizzer) Bridwell, producing clown; Arthur

Grotfent, electrician; Ron Morris, concessions; Nick Makos, announcer/vocalist.

The program included: Prince Bogino, lions (8); Clowns; Miss Maya, single trapeze; Karsak Duo, teeterboard; Miss Elizabeth, foot juggling; The Alberto Zoppe Riding Academy; The Bertinis, unicycles; The Riding Zerbinis, horses.

The second half of the show featured: The Marcias and Miss Souray, balancing; The Clodox Bros., comedy acrobats; Miss Theresa, revolving trapeze; Zoppe's Riding Canines; The Corinis, low wire; Clowns; The Great Oscar, cloud swing; Gary and Gale Johnson, elephants.

..... Don Bridwell

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INTERVIEW

By M. L. Dupont — Sept. 20, 1977

The following is an exclusive interview with E. J. McDaniels, President of Showtime Corp. of Dayton, Ohio,

CR - "We know that you have a lawsuit for a million dollars against Gil Miller and several others in reference to Showtime USA. Would you care to comment?"

E.J. - "Yes, I would. First I would like to correct several things before I make my statement. I want both fans and circus people to know I did not shut down the show, it was shut down by people who were supposedly in charge and stampeded."

CR - "That may be true, E. J., but our information was that no one was being paid."

E.J. - "I was away from the show when this came up, but was headed for the show with payroll from the backers when all the things came to a head and my equipment began to disappear. And the show was shut down. Also my son almost got killed by their carelessness."

CR - "Assuming that you are correct, we'd still like to know about the lawsuits that are now in the courts."

E.J. - "OK, here is where we stand. I recovered most of the equipment but some is still out. In protecting myself I had set up this corporation. Gil Miller and one of his acts sued us for \$40,000 for a contract we did not even know existed. It only came to light later."

CR - "How does Gil Miller enter into Showtime USA?"

E.J. - "Well, Mr. Miller booked an awful lot of acts. At the advice of my attorney we entered a counter suit of one million dollars. Now this is the suit that you reported in an earlier issue that was being delayed. Well, I want it known that we nor I delayed the case. Miller's attorney requested the delay."

CR - "Has it come to court?"

E.J. - "Yes, we came to court not too long ago and once again they requested a further delay. The judge gave them a delay until October and then we go to court again."

CR - "Well, E. J. how do you feel about your case?"

E.J. - "Very good. We have lots of good affidavits. We have knowledge of equipment that

was taken and by whom and where. In fact, my attorney is now getting in touch with the FBI as some of it was moved across state lines. We even know of serial numbers that were chiseled off. Plus other things. People must think I'm real stupid or something."

CR - "Well, what is the future of Showtime USA. Is it a dead show?"

E.J. - "By no means, Showtime USA will come back out. But first I must recover all my equipment in full, clear up this law suit, clear some debts I created. And I will in time as I've already made some payments on some I owed. But to do justice to my show I must have people like I have on my Ice Show. Good management people that will work for the show and performers."

CR - "Mr. McDaniels, we thank you for the above comments. We would like to ask you two other questions. What is the future of 'This Is Hawaii . . . On Ice' and what are your plans?"

E.J. - "Well, you can also quote me on this - Hawaii On Ice has had an extraordinary year. Our state-side tour was excellent and our tour in the Far East has really been above our expectations. Since you have been running our route you know how much of the world we have covered. The new 1978 show will open in the U. S. at Troy, Ohio, in the 5500 seat Hobart Arena, on Jan. 13, 1978 for three days."

CR - "When you speak of the '78 tour will it still carry the Hawaii theme?"

E.J. - "Yes, by all means. It will be bigger and better and some changes will be made. First we will go on real ice in the larger cities and the plastic ice or as you have referred to it as unice in the one day stands and mid-week dates."

CR - "What changes have you made?"

E.J. - "Well, the show is now able to run itself, but I have secured the services of J. J. Jackson, formerly with Ice Capades and he is now moved up to associate producer. This will give me more time to front the show and do advance. It will also let me concentrate on other aspects of my business. I have also secured a female director from 'Chere Spicy' of Las Vegas, who I can't reveal her name at this time."

"The show will have several 'firsts' too. We will be the first Ice Show in Springfield, Ill., Pueblo,

(Continued on Page 20)

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School Daze

The first week of September was no different for the children with Carson & Barnes Circus than it was for the regular town kids, as school started for everyone at the same time. Show owner D. R. Miller brought on Ms. Cindy Walker to hold regular school classes for about 17 children who travel with the circus. Ms. Walker is from New York and has a degree in education from the University there.

Classes are held in the dining tent for an hour and a half each morning and two hours each afternoon. The show children go to school six days a week to get their required number of classroom hours in.

Like all the other kids, the second day of school found Armando, son of Lucy Loyal, going under the sidewall and playing hookey, with the story of "well Moma, I needed to practice my act and that is learning isn't it?" Needless to say Lucy applied a little back-hand and young Armando attended the next class session.

Standard school text books were brought from Oklahoma so it will be easier for the children to go into public school there when the show goes into quarters for the winter.

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Color pictures of Ringling-Barnum Thrill Circus at the Ohio State Fair.

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Miscellaneous

Two groups of Model Builders Rings (Charly Baumann and Capt. Wm. Curtis) will co-host a model builders meeting on Hoxie Bros. Circus at Greenville, S. C. on Oct. 8th.

Members of the Merle Evans CFA Tent held a Sept. 9th luncheon meeting at Joplin, Mo., and awarded Alton Jones a special circus painting in recognition of his many years of service as CFA Historian for the tent. Members at the affair included: Duke Wellington, President; Arthur Austin, Secretary/Treasurer; Joe Milligan; D. J. Poynor; Rolla Stephens; Everett Dobbs; Russell Ekstrom; Alton Jones and Don Walker.

The Famous Hunt Circus elephant ride is currently with the Funorama Shows. Show personnel also have a food and novelty unit with the eastern show.

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MAILBAG

As a follow-up to your recent article "Jumbo Honored" your readers may be interested to know that Jumbo's hide was mounted and displayed at Tufts College, Medford Hillside, Mass. In fact Jumbo was almost an unofficial mascot for the Tufts College football teams. They used to display a banner with an elephant on it at the football games and I recall seeing it many times in the Pathe News and Fox News shown in theatres.

In 1922, I took the first orchestra to ever broadcast from radio station WGI which was operated by, or in conjunction with Tufts College. I did broadcasts from that station many times during 1922-23 and also took part in an aviation talk show with a fledgling newspaper writer friend of mine, George Hamblin (deceased) of the Boston American.

In going to the little studio which was sandwiched in among offices of the college, I often saw that colossal figure of Jumbo in the Museum room. Jumbo was truly awe inspiring.

When I was at the Circus Hall of Fame as organizer for the show put on by Bill Garden (1971-72) I saw the comparison painting they had there about elephants. They included:

Jumbo 10 ft 10 in - Barnum 1885
 Tusko 10 ft 4 in - Barnes 1933
 Manderin 9 ft 9 in - Ringling 1902
 Tip 9 ft 6 in - Forepaugh 1895
 Jumbo II 9 ft - Cole Bros. 1936
 Joskey 8 ft 4 in - Ringling 1957
 Emperor 8 ft 1 in - Sells Bros. 1895

... Harry J. Jenkins



In Memoriam

JAMES A. MORAN (57) a former Ringling-Barnum Circus clown and member of the CFA died on March 6th at Kissimmee, Fla. Survivors include his widow, two daughters and a brother.

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SAWDUST TRAIL

The Cleveland area has been blessed with two major tent circuses here of late. Both the big Beatty-Cole and Carson & Barnes shows have played the area thoroughly.....That runaway elephant of the Carson & Barnes Circus cost a bundle. Barbara's two runaways cost the show an estimated \$80,000 in damages.

Bobby Gibbs and family are now working the Texas dates after a quick trip south from Baraboo. Bob's semi broke down enroute to Dallas and repairs ran \$700.....Neil Franzen and his elephant 'Butch' are with Kelly Bros., as are the Canestrelli Family, the Frauensteins, the Ricardo Troupe, Miss Joyce and Pietro (see CR for Sept. 19th - story by Jack Bennett).

Earl Allen reports that Kelly Bros. came into Sikeston with very little fanfare. The first wind-down card appeared only five days ahead of the show and only one newspaper article appeared and it was in a free throw-away paper. The circus was sponsored by Heritage House, while the Lions Club sponsored Sells & Grey there on

the 26th..... Reports reaching this writer indicate that a law suit is about to be filed by a young circus producer, against a circus talent agency.

Piggly Wiggle Grocery chain of Monroe, La., has booked Do Do, the Clown for the La./Ark/Miss. Fair in Monroe. DoDo will ride a special float in the opening parade and is to work with the Animated Pig of the grocery chain.

Reports indicate Fisher Bros. Circus is in the general Louisiana area, but despite efforts on the part of law enforcement people and CB'ers we've been unable to locate the show.....At this writing tentative plans have been approved to allow the city of Monroe, La., to accept the gift of a circus owner, the donation of an elephant for its zoo. Details will come later.

Ralph Duke, who was working advance for the Fisher Bros. Circus is with the Texas Shrine Circuit....Fans and friends are being invited to a big day at the Dr. Pepper Circus, at the State Fair in Texas on Oct. 14th.

..... M. L. DUPONT

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Circus Days (Freedman) Paper cover	\$ 7.00	Gus, the Great	\$3.00
50 Years Under Canvas (Walters) ...	\$ 3.50	Sideshow (Rusid)	\$5.00
Wild Tigers and Tame Fleas	\$ 6.00	Very Special People	\$5.00
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McDANIELS INTERVIEW (Continued)

Colo., and Augusta, Maine. We will be making long jumps. One of our dates is Washington, DC. We've been booked for far more dates than last year and have many military bases to play. We have grown and I have good people on the show."

CR - "E. J., I'm not a Howard Cosell, but I do believe in telling it like it is. In the last two years you've created a lot of smoke."

E. J. - "Well, maybe so, maybe not. In the same token I have been taken and lots a ton of money. I will say this, all the dates that the Hanneford Circus failed to honor in '75 and all the dates of Showtime USA that were not made in '76 have been recontacted and offered the Ice Show if they want it. Naturally, all dates that were lost were not regained as some had gone out and contacted other shows."

"My other plans for '78 may include another circus if I can find proper management. Good performers, there are plenty of, but good honest front people are hard to come by. At the present time I am also sending acts into Alaska on a flat fee basis. Plus, we're still dickering with this Las Vegas request for a small ice show"

CR - "My last question and I'll let you go. Can we expect to be informed on the outcome of Showtime USA? It has been a topic of discussion for two years now."

E.J. - "I will keep in touch. Some reports have tried to make me out the heavy. I appreciate your reporting the facts."

ROUTES

Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus
Oct. 3-5 Oak Ridge, Tenn.
6-9 Nashville

Royal Hanneford Circus
Oct. 1 Mahopac, N. Y.
2 E. Stroudsburg, Pa.
7-9 Knoxville, Tenn.

PLEASE NOTE

Officials of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture held two public hearings last month on proposed new standards for captive marine mammals.

The proposed standards, developed by the US DA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will provide for the humane care, handling, treatment and transportation of marine mammals maintained in captivity.

Copies of the hearings are available for public inspection. For details write: Dale F. Schwindaman, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Animal Care Staff, Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, Rm. 703, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

ZOO PANIC

Seven crazed monkeys escaped from their cage at the Kuwait Zoo and killed two children in a group of panic-stricken holiday visitors. The incident occurred as crowds of people visited the zoo, relaxing for the Moslem feast of Enid, a four day holiday that ends the 30 day Ramadan period of fasting.

After escaping from their cage the monkey began attacking the bystanders, setting off a panic. Two children were killed as a result of bites and scratches and the zoo keeper was seriously bitten before police shot and killed one monkey and captured the others.

Mail

Mail marked "Incorrect Address" has been returned to Circus Report for the following subscribers. Just a note or card will put us back on the right track again.

Charles Clancey	Tony Greiner
A. Hime	Victor Flores
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'77 Season at King's Animaland Park

A FIRST

On Sept. 7th, during the afternoon performance of Circus World's Participation Circus, Ricardo Gaona, 20, completed his first triple somersault to the hands of the catcher. Ricardo is the son of trainer and director of participation at the circus park, Victor Gaona, and the younger brother of Tito. Ricardo also does a double layout and full twisting double.

Approximately 30 minutes later, in a practice session, John Zimmerman, another member of the outdoor flying act, completed his first

triple somersault to the hands of the catcher. John, 26, also does a full-twisting double and a two and a half for the passing leap.

Both triples were caught by Manuel Zuniga, 26, who was a former catcher for Tito Gaona. The female member of the flying act is Laura Rappa, 23, who does a full-twisting somersault and one and a half.

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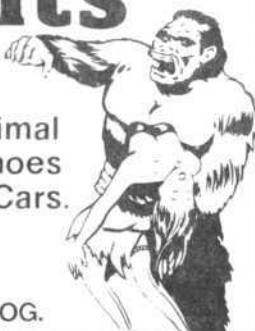
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PEOPLE

BRETT SHOCKLEY, unicyclist, recently visited with **WARREN WOOD** and **CHUCK CRAW**, Great All American Youth Circus directors, and showed them newspapers and affidavit for his unbelievable and record breaking 20 ft. long ride on a 50 ft 9½ in. giraffe unicycle. The new record was achieved on July 15th at the Southdale Shopping Center in Minneapolis.

ART BARRETT has signed to handle concessions at Flint, Roanoke, Canton, Akron, Las Vegas, Ogden, Reno and other cities in conjunction with the regular circus dates in those cities.

The **WESTERN WILD CATS BAND**, owned by 12 year old **ROLY ENGESSER**, drew 2,000 people for the opening of the Safari Camp Grounds in Cross City, Fla., while his 14 year old sister, **LOLA**, sang and received three standing ovations.

DeLAGE & MARGARET were the featured act at the Juniata County Fair, Pt. Royal, Pa., the week of Sept. 5th. While there they renewed

Visitors

Visitors who stopped to chat at the Hall & Christ Circus Unique in Columbus, Ohio, included: **Buck Nolan**, from Hoxie's Great American; **Dick Flint**, from the Strong Museum; **Doug Lyons** and **Tim Simson**, promoters; **Bill Siros** and **Jim Lawrence**, from Thrillorama; **D. R. Miller** and **Tom Inabette**, from Carson & Barnes; **Kenneth Feld**, **Chuck Smith**, **Allen Bloom**, and **Johnny** and **Mary Ruth Herriott**, of Ringling-Barnum.

friendships with **WALTER SMILEY**, organist, who played for their act ten years ago. DeLage has a new dog production that is a big hit.

THE MARQUIS CHIMPS were featured on the **TIM CONWAY TV Special** which was aired the night of Sept. 17th.

THE SAXONS, unicycles and juggling act, worked with the Happytime Circus at its Newark (Calif) Days Celebration the weekend of Sept. 17-18.



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GLENN MARTIN's review of the show at the Ohio State Fair credited Unique McPeak with the wire walk when it was actually PHILIPPE PETIT who dazzled the patrons with the long high wire walk.

ANGELA WILNOW and her trained Collies is playing the Shrine Circuses in Macon, Ga., and Columbus, Ga., which are produced by Eddie Zachini. The booking was arranged by the Gunnar Amandis Agency.

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COLLECTORSCarson & Barnes 5 Ring Circus 1977 Four
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Aerialist Hurt

High wire walker Roger Regor, of France, suffered minor injuries when he slipped and fell during a Circus Vargas performance in Canada on Sept. 16th. The accident occurred shortly after Regor began his act. He wa

He was attempting to ride a unicycle across the wire when the bike slipped from beneath him and crashed to the ground. Regor grabbed a rope and slid to the ground.

He was taken to the local hospital and treated for rope burns to his hands and chest, then was released.

A L DAWLEY handled the MC work for the Jonny Rivers Show at the Upper S. C. Fair date last month.

SALLY RAND returned to her dancing with an engagement at the Lincoln Park Nightclub in Detroit last week. The 73 year old dancer was hospitalized with a lung ailment several weeks ago.

JAN JOYNER, aerialist, was the subject of an interview written for the Cape Breton Post on Sept. 17th. The story included two photos.

ED SMITH, a clown on the Ringling Blue Unit, dislocated his shoulder and was scheduled for surgery at Redlands, Calif. on July 21st.

Thank You

Ian Garden, Ellie, Paul, Klara, Klarinka, Leo, Michelle and all you wonderful Garden Bros. Circus folks for making a rough 1977 tour easier for us. We'll not forget your Special Kindness and Help.

P.S. A Big 'Special' Thanks to two great people - Ray and Terri Foley.

DON & FRANNY BRIDWELL
"Whizzer and Spunky"

From Florida

Doc Miller reports he visited the King-Cole Circus at Gainesville, Fla. and states Whitey Black has a fine organization that runs as smooth as clockwork. The performance is first class and the wardrobe is surprisingly fresh and clean for so late in the aseason.

It was a real old home day for Doc, the first person he saw was Jimmy Cole, a friend of some 50 or more years. Both broke into the tented world in 1924, Jimmy with Floyd King's Gentry show and Doc with Billy Burke's tent show (managing a sledge hammer and other high class situations). Doc met a total stranger until Jimmy advised it was Tex Maynard, of the old J. Cole Circus.

Mari Jo Couls looks as young as ever and says she hasn't been a bit itchy for the road (sure that wasn't a fib?). Patti Couls Rucker was busy looking up old friends and remarked it was good to be 'home' on a corporation show.

Jimmy introduced Doc to the demure young lady at the organ and both were surprised to



Count
NICHOLAS
...BEATTY-
COLE

learn who was who. Doc first saw Marsha Cole Maynard (when she was a little child) singing on the wagon tailgate of her father's tent show, to the flickering light of an old banjo gasoline flare torch. Both she and Tex were important folks around the J. Cole Circus, and now do a fine job on King-Cole with drums and organ.

As Doc strolled out of the top, he appreciated the fact that it was the old time big show smoothness, the only thing missing was that time honored feature of the railers for the blow off — the bally stand right across the midway with the cooch hard at work to ding the suckers for that last two bits in their pockets.

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CROWD PLEASER

The Ringling-Barnum's Red Unit engagement at Fresno, Calif., was one of the best of the west coast stands for the big circus. Full houses and turnaway crowds were the rule. The show also drew good crowds during its tour of dates in Southern California.

At both Oakland and San Francisco it was obvious that there were many empty seats during the performances in those cities. Despite this the show drew well, but attendance was probably not up to the records achieved by the Blue Unit last year.

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

an "active" week at the Foxboro (Mass.) Raceway feeding flocks of wild Canadian Geese that landed daily enroute to their "winter quarters". Only excitement denting the boredom was when assistant BOBBY DAVIS was chased one night by an irate skunk and almost missed the act.

See you down the road, luvs.

Route

Clyde Bros.-Carden-Johnson Circus
Sept. 30-Oct. 2 Salina, Kansas

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Acts Set

Several novelty acts have been booked by Simone Finner Enterprises, West Coast theatrical agency specializing in circus and variety acts, for network television appearances.

Scheduled to be seen throughout the country this month are: John Baldwin's Charming Chimps, appearing on both "Truth or Consequences" and the new ABC Children's series "Red Hand Gang"; The Great Tomsoni & Co., Poland's Finest Magician and Antonio's Poodles on the "Merv Griffin Show"; Les Romanos, French bicycle trio and Antonio's Poodles on "Stars on Ice"; and Lucien Meyer and Friends, ice-skating chimps on "Donny & Marie Show."

PEOPLE

JOHN NICCOLINI, owner of the Famous Niccolini Brothers Chimp Act, recently returned to the U. S. to take care of some business and sell a truck and trailer. His sons are working with the act in Europe, Jerusalem and Israel.

DOROTHY TROWER, who with her late husband Ralph, collected early American circus posters, will have her collection displayed at the Museum of Our National Heritage, in Lexington, Mass., from Sept. 24, 1977 to April 16, 1978.

JOHN MacKAY, clown, worked the Mid-South Fair for **EDDIE ZACCHINI** and is now appearing with the Sam T. Polack Circus.

LITTLE CASPER, HA HA, the Clown and **HO PO**, The Maine Clown, worked a series of parks throughout the summer months and late last month (Sept. 25-26) worked at the Fair in Cumberland, Maine.

PAUL WESSLER was visiting friends in the San Francisco (Calif.) area this past week.

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FLASH!

A team of Belgian horses being exhibited at a fair in Hamburg, N. Y., last month bolted twice during the exhibition program.


The horses bolted and ran into a fence, then were calmed down and placed back in the competition. Shortly afterwards they bolted again, this time running into the crowd of spectators causing some serious injuries and the hospitalization of those injured. A 7 month old baby girl was narrowly saved when Frank Burger grabbed the youngster and rolled with her away from the charging horses.

PEOPLE

GEORGE (Perky) PERKINS, clown, is featured in an article called "Redlands Clown Club" in the 'Caliope' magazine for July/August 1977.

POPO deBATHE, clown, celebrated his 77th birthday in conjunction with the annual Magic Day at Children's Fairyland Park in Oakland, Calif., on Aug. 6th.

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ATTENTION

A recent report concerning the Shrine Circuses at Akron and Canton, Ohio, was in error. Those shows will be presented in March 1978, produced by Sam T. Polack, under contracts provided by Henry Barrett.

CLYDE BEATTY-COLE BROS.

The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus opened a three day run at the Forest Park Plaza in Dayton, Ohio, on Sept. 12th. There were plenty of window cards throughout the area, local papers carried a considerable amount of publicity and a ticket booth was set up within the mall. Free children's tickets were distributed through the merchants and show times were 4 and 8 p.m.

The program featured: Dave Hoover, tigers (4) and lions (5); Clown Walkaround; Miss Carmen, tightwire; Miss Ethel, sword balancing; The Glorians and Elba and Rita, cradle; The Ruwills plate spinning; Senor Francisco, comedy juggling; Clowns and truck; Prof. Kurt Schiman, champs; Color Book Sales (75c); Aerial Ballet with 16 girls on swinging ladders and featuring Ron and Mitzi, iron jaw; The Arturas, top spinning; The Ferreiras and The Rays, perch; Mitzi, slide for life; Miss Ethel, greyhounds; The Padillas, single traps; Clowns; Francesco's Troupe, Teeterboard; Hans & Sigfrid, adagio acrobats; The Dionnes, balancing; Clown Big Head Walkaround; Fred Logan, elephants (9); Side Show pitch and Souvenir Sales; The Rayells, high wire motorcycle and the Gaona Troupe, flying act.

The ringmaster was Count Nicolas and the eight piece band was directed by Charles Bertini.

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COLLECTORS ITEM

Window cards and half-sheet lithos made up for the Ringling-Barnum Thrill Circus at the Ohio State Fair have already become collector's items. Offers of \$50 to \$75 have been made to those who were lucky enough to obtain them.

Early this month Hoxie's Great American Circus and Kelly Bros. Circus day-and-dated each other at Blooming ton.

The show's midway includes a side show/menagerie, pony ride, concessions, ape show and ticket wagon.

Among those seen on the lot were George Hubler, Don and Grace Sandman and Smiley Brewer. George recalled that this lot was once an open field, then a picnic area and Amusement Park, and where he saw his first show - Sells Floto.

..... Don Sandman

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The 'Circus of the Amazons'

An all new-circus has become a popular attraction in Italy, according to news reports from that country. Called "Circus of Amazons" the show is operated by Liana Orfei and features a complete program of women performers. The only male members of the show are those who serve as prop hands and roustabouts.

The idea of the all-woman circus was developed after Liana visited a University exhibit devoted to ancient Rome's women gladiators. Then according to the show owner, it took two years to line up the talent, acquired from all over the world. The hardest job, she says, was to find women clowns.

The show opens with a group of 20 chorus girls (none under six feet tall) who are armed with swords, spears, bows and arrows, shields and plumed helmets. They go through Amazon army paces wielding their threatening weapons in simulated battle array.

Anita Orfei follows with a group of six female Bengal tigers. Other relatives in the circus are Vesna Orfei, who directs the elephant act, Cristina Orfei, horse trainer and young Ambra Orfei, who literally steals the show with her group

of trained doves.

One of the most sensational acts is presented by Miss Jenny who does a sword balancing act. She climbs a ladder and does other feats while balancing a sword atop a dagger which is held in her mouth.

The show's finale is an eye-boggling event. As Anita gallops around the tent dressed as the "Queen of the Amazons" a huge Trojan Horse is wheeled out, and from its sides emerge one Amazon warrior after another, in full battle dress waving big swords and lighted torches, and pulling behind them some bedraggled and shackled male prisoners (prop hands, etc). The public eats it up.

DIXIANA CIRCUS (Continued)

and support from each and every sponsor that they play for.

All that I can say to sum up my feelings about the Dixiana Circus is that it brought back to mind the joy we all felt under the big top as children. It doesn't matter if you are young or old, after you have seen the Dixiana Circus you feel that you have relived a part of a great tradition.

..... Jeff Chalmers

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