



6th Year

April 4, 1977

Number 14

Boycott Launched

A national consumer boycott and informational campaign has been launched by the American Federation of Musicians against the Ringling Bros. - Barnum & Bailey Circus. The boycott has the backing of AFL-CIO president George Meany who has asked all union members to stay away from the circus.

The campaign will include a nationwide drive to gain signatures on petitions protesting the circus' action; an informational campaign in every city on the circus route; the full resources of the AFL-CIO in a national consumer boycott; spot and print advertising to inform the public of the unfair actions of the circus; handbills and other appropriate methods of communication, says AFM president Hal C. Davis.

The dispute erupted when the circus made a deal with Charles Peterson and Del Castelle, known as Cas-Pet, to be its contractor for musicians. In the past the AFM has represented the circus musicians.

Since 1956 Ringling has augmented its basic band with AFM members, hired through independent contractors in the cities that it

plays. This year it is carrying its own band of 15 musicians on each unit, hired through the Cas-Pet firm of Yonkers, N.Y.

Earlier the AFM had reportedly agreed with a Ringling proposal that a national musician contract be negotiated rather than one with local contractors. However, a circus spokesman said they had switched to Cas-Pet because independ-

(Continued on Page 19)

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In Memoriam

MARY E. WOLFARTH (89) who was known as "Queenie Dunedin" during her vaudeville days died at Quincy, Mass. on March 3rd after a long illness.

Born in England, her mother took in boarders to support the six children. Mary joined the Dunedin Family Troupe, of Australia, at the age of nine and then traveled with them throughout the world for 14 years. The troupe arrived in San Francisco just after the 1906 earthquake. Her act included trick cycling, juggling and fancy roller skating.

In her later years she appeared as a comedienne on radio shows, at the Boston Stage Door Canteen and before England's Royalty.

PEOPLE

GOEFFREY, escape artist, was at home in California last week after a tour in the South Pacific. He leaves this week for several months work in Japan and the Orient.

Acts Named

Acts working the Irish Festival at Oldsmar, Fla., last month included: Lipko's Chimps, Yvonne Stephens dogs, Ken "Turtle" Benson, rope spinning and juggling, Leanne Stephens, single trapeze, V. Cristiani's elephants, plus Gene Tracy, announcer.

Robinson's Superstar Thrill Circus took a brief tour through the Florida Keys in mid-February and early March. Making the tour were: Bob and Edna Top, The Amazing Blazing, Sir Andrew, the Garcia Troupe and Sonny Pelquin's Hollywood Daredevils, featuring Sonny Pelquin, Samantha Morgan, Gene Wynne and Ty Sutton.

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SAWDUST TRAIL

Earl Allen, long-time CFA, was the subject of a very nice feature story in the March 13 issue of the Memphis (Tenn) Commercial Appeal. The story by Ron Russell, included color photos of Earl and an old Buffalo Bill litho.

The March 9 issue of the Shreveport (La) Times carried a color photo of two RBBB clowns who were working advance at New York City.

Among the CFA's seen visiting the Carson & Barnes Circus lately were: Arthur and Bea Stone and their sons Greg and Chris. The Stones who are retired now work for the American Big Top Circus. Hardy O'Neal and Hank Fraser were also seen on the show lot.

The Dixiana Circus, purchased by Peter Luvas and Gary Strong from Charles Koehler, opened its '77 season on Mar. 10th at Azle, Texas. The show will play West Monroe (La) Apr. 29-May 1 the same time that Eddie Zacchini produces the Monroe (La) Shrine Circus Apr. 30-May 1.

DoDo, the Clown and Tom Phelps will be producing clowns for the Zacchini Monroe date and DoDo will work other dates for the show, in the meantime DoDo opened his season with a promotion deal for the La. Purchase Gardens on March 26-27.

Stebbing Royal European Circus will tour in Texas for six weeks starting April 18th at Nederland and ending May 29 at Newton. They also have dates in Louisiana and Georgia.

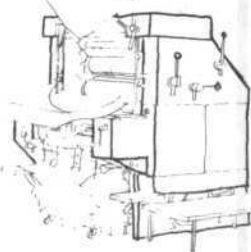
Jim Silverlake, former show owner and the last two years with Hoxie, is now with Carson & Barnes and this reporter met him as he drove the first C&B unit onto the lot at Monroe on March 17th. It was a tight lot, but they got the show put into it with the big top at an angle.

Hawaii On Ice, produced by E. J. McDaniels is drawing big crowds and at Havsu City they added an extra performance when the five scheduled shows were sold out.

C&B is carrying 32 elephants this year and for the first time they have colorful show decals on the show truck tractors. It is also good to see the ticket wagon lettered and scrolled so well.

..... M. L. Dupont

HOT OFF THE PRESS



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BILLY BARTON....

IN A BUSINESS filled with self-proclaimed "Super Stars", we who were with CIRCUS ODYSSEY in San Juan now have, at any rate, our own honest-to-goodness SUPER HEROES, the GREAT VASHEK and CATHY. Their mid-air excursion via a motorcycle on a cable 200 ft. at one end and 300 ft. at the other, performed with the pair swaying dangerously in gusting winds, is positively the most sensational stunt this reporter has ever seen and, after 43 yrs. in show biz, I've seen the best. To cap the whole thing off VASHEK flew to Miami on Mar. 14 to return that night an American citizen. Congrats, VASHEK, on BOTH achievements!

When ABC Wide World of Sports bought out the Thursday (Mar. 17) performance of CIRCUS ODYSSEY to tape the FOREMAN-YOUNG fight, the performers got front row seats and Circus Odyssey received International Publicity....As was predicted the famed DOBRITCH title makes a "comeback" when SANDY DOBRITCH produces the Wheaton (Ill) Police Circus, under canvas, June 22-26. This is where the HAROLD BARNES big top blew down last year (on my head)....For the first time since 1971 IAN GARDEN takes his Garden Bros. Circus back to Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens (in May)....TIBI YOUNG bought EVA a diamond ring that now makes her the LIZ TAYLOR of the Circus World....WALT KING has decided not to sell his cat act, at least until after his park season....MICKEY GUTIS tripped running into the ring in San Juan and cut his leg to the tune of 6 stitches. He was back for the night show....Reports are that the three rings of liberty horses (8 in each ring) is the "Major Event" on CIRCUS VARGAS. One of HARRY THOMAS' tigers had twin cubs. RO-WENA says this cat is so fertile she's beginning to think Harry has a striped Rabbit!....Head balancing trapezist LA DONA NOVOTNY is with King Bros. Her father has returned to RBBB....It's no secret anymore that BUCKLES and BARBARA WOODCOCK will be with RBBB's Blue Unit this fall. Attempts by FELD to lure BENNY WILLIAMS out of South America came to naught. He is happy where he is....ANTAR WAZZAN, Jr. celebrated his birthday in the Virgin Islands....The FABULOUS VILLAMS walked away with the "reviews" of the M&M Circus in Rochester. Others singled out for praise were Sir VICTOR JULIAN, BABY DONDI, THE APOLLOS, THE FULBRIGHTS and the Lenz Chimps. ROSA GIBBS, suffering ill-health thru 1976, is back

in action and feeling fine....CYNDY SMITH MIGLEY "flashed" the SCALZO illusions in San Juan and RO-WENA THOMAS lent her glamour to the PRINCE NAJVEZ act...Theme music for CIRCUS ODYSSEY incidentally, is based on the theme of STAR TREK, arranged fantastically with a latin beat by WILLY MARAMBIO...The HARTZELL's remain active in Las Vegas: MICKEY is still at Circus Circus; ROSS has a job at the Riviera; DINA is also working at a hotel; JOHN is attending a school for "air-conditioning," and RAY, a fine organist, is playing dates...FRAZIER MOHAWK's Puck's Circus opens May 1st for a 22 week season that takes in the CNE for the third straight year. ED RUSSELL will have the side show which will also be a museum featuring antique posters and circus wagons. Show will have a 3 piece band and some of the acts are: MORRELLS (the Robertsons), LES WELDON, ALBERTO ZOPPE Family and the PUCK's RENT-A-FOOL Clowns.

MANUEL RUFFIN (Prince Bogino) will be with Rudy Bros. until June....The BEEF TRUST (Gibbs, Henry and Bogino) have a bet on to see who loses the most weight. So far it's a draw....Former World Heavy-weight Champion JOE LOUIS, who suffered a heart problem in late Feb. received so much mail he went right back to work as host at CAESAR'S PALACE to prove he was still "champ."....The CHARLES GUTIS FAMILY will play dates for EDDIE ZACCHINI and SAM T. POLACK....BILLY and BONNIE EARL tour their own shopping center unit this fall...DONNA CLAYTON, who took time out to have a baby, rejoined their act in Cleveland (Sports Show - Mar. 18-27)...During all those dates unplayed because of snow Gentleman JIMMY COLE still paid off. Says Jim, "I was either snowed in or snowed out."

EM WIRENGARD writes they nearly quit the business: They are currently constructing beautiful new stainless steel bear props for WALLY NAGHTIN. Their son visited for Christmas. He is working his revolving-breakaway sway pole in England this season. During his visit he brought with him the 1927 Rolls used in the TV series "Upstairs, Downstairs" to resell in the U.S. It's the only way he could increase the value of the pound!

Organist STANLEY FRIEDBERG is true "one-of-a-kind-original"! EXAMPLE: Stan asked MANUEL RUFFIN if he was HARRY THOMAS. The black

(Continued on Page 25)

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REVIEW

While making my way north from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara to see the Chinese Circus from Taiwan, I happened to notice at a shopping center what appeared to be a circus tent, except it had square ends.

My curiosity paid off for this was the Stardust Circus, produced by Klaudiusz Blaszk, which was about to open for its premiere performance with a 2 p.m. show. The Chinese Circus didn't start until 8 p.m. so we stayed to see this brand new circus.

The paper for this show is simple, colorful and eye-catching. The leased tent was red and green striped with two aluminum center poles and floating quarter poles, giving all seats a clear view of the single ring. The box seats and a reserved center section offered comfortable contour chairs. Seating on either side was in bleachers. Boxes, ring curb, bandstand and back-drop were all attractive. The lighting was modern and excellent, spotlights were missing, but are to be added soon. The show has a clean, colorful and orderly look both inside and out.

Vince Greco conducts the eleven piece band with verve and style. The music is outstanding and gets a good hand on its own merit at the opening of the show. Only a few minor changes will be necessary to merge the tempo and mood of a few acts.

The Margo Timbe Dancers, eight of them, could fit into any Las Vegas show and are reminiscent of the Tehany Circus, in South America, as they open the show with their clown number. Against the scarlet ring carpet the clown costumes, each different, are a beautiful splash of color.

It would be difficult to find a better way to open a show than with the Bruski's novel unicycle balancing act. The unique use of the old fashioned high wheeler, the unusual tricks done with speed and style, set this act apart from standard cycle acts.

The Young Troupe are on second with a fast and good humored juggling act. Bevrans follows with a nicely staged head and foot balance trapeze act, needing only more dramatic and suitable music to give it its deserved impact.

The Duo Megres are a hand-to-hand and head-

to-head balancing act from Poland who are most impressive in a type of circus act not often seen in the U.S. today.

Clowns, Brad Ward and John Mason, do an adequate job with their "drop the pants humor" as props are being set or struck.

Naganays act with his several boa constrictors, slithering freely about the ring is not long on tricks, but the audience is thrilled and awed by their size alone. Such an act is new to American circuses, but not uncommon in European shows.

I have enjoyed Princess Elena Omar's fine head and hand balancing act in several countries and I am pleased to see her in the U.S. She controls her audience with authority in audience participation and the result is fun for all.

Next comes an exotic group of animals, new to the ring, who will be increasingly pleasing after a few shows. An elephant and a chimp team up to steal the show, aided by a llama, a pony and a Tibetan yak. The kids are enthralled.

After intermission, unspoiled by a candy or coloring book pitch, comes the star of the show. The fantastic female trainer of animals, formerly with Ringling, Ada Smieya with a group of four African lions and three Bengal tigers. She has been especially commended by the S.P.C.A. for her reward training methods, and Poland's loss is our gain with the beautiful and great lady of the circus. Her act speaks fluently for her training methods.

Valentino's high wire act is slightly handicapped by not being able to work directly under the crown of the tent, but he overcomes it to strong audience response.

Billed only as Barbara, a beautiful young lady does a most unusual solo web number and was rewarded by an ovation.

The Knops perch act is a show stopper, heart stopper, on any bill. Its smoothness and continuity are outstanding. One man supports a perch with a man on top supporting a second perch with a woman in a handstand at the very top, in the crown of the tent. An elegant and thrilling act.

(Continued on Page 17)

ROUTES

Clyde Beatty & Cole. Bros. Combined
Apr. 5-9 Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
10-13 Columbus, Ga.

Carden-Johnson Circus - Red Unit
Apr. 11-17 Springfield, Mo.

Circus Vargas
Apr. 4-6 Montclair, Calif.
7-10 Burbank

Hagen Wallace-Sells & Gray Circus
Apr. 4 Brooksville, Fla.
5 Lutz
6 Sarasota
7 Punta Gorda
8 Cape Coral
9-10 Fort Pierce

Happytime Circus
Apr. 4-10 Sacramento, Calif.

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Apr. 4 Albany, Ga.
5 Douglas
6 Jesup
7 Vidalia
8 Milledgeville
9 Thomson
10-11 Augusta

Hoxie's Great American Circus
Apr. 4 Cooper City, Fla.
5 Clewiston
6 Royal Palm Beach
7 Stuart
8 Vero Beach
9 New Smyrna Beach

Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus
Apr. 5-7 Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
8-10 Mt. Prospect, Ill.

King Bros. Circus
Apr. 8 Apopka, Fla.
9 New Smyrna Beach
10 Green Cove Springs

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Apr. 6-17 Washington, D.C.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
to June 5 New York, N. Y.

----- OTHER ROUTES -----

Ken Griffin (Magic)
Apr. 4 McMinnville, Tenn.
9 Nowata, Okla.

Ice America
Apr. 3-5 East Lansing, Mich.
6-7 Utica
8-9 Allen Park
10-12 West Lafayette, Ind.

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BLUE UNIT:

Clown warm-up; Circus Overture; Geronimo, high dive; George Barrada, all male lion act; The La-Paul Cradle act; Clowns; Hans Klose, sword balancing; Arabian Fantasy (camels and llamas); Clowns; Al's Lim-O-Zine; Aerial Ballet; The Jordanas, upside down cycle; The Jerichos, springboard leaps; Joselito, high wire; Clowns; Barrada's Chimps; Adele & Gory, gorilla parody; Clowns; Circus Elephants; The Flying Carrolls; Grand Finale.

RED UNIT:

Circus Overture; "Babes In Toyland" spec; William Golden, Bengal tigers; Golumbo Duo, aerial cradle; Scott's Unridable Mule; Clowns; The Iberra Sisters, bicycles; Lange Family, acrobats; Liberty Ponies; Clowns; Bobby & Jane, juggling; Aerial Ballet; The Flying Iberras; The Ascot Boxers; Witches Convention; The Galumbos, rolling globe; Clowns; Circus Elephants; Cucciolo, trampoline; Eddie Ventura, thrill act; Finale.

At various locations throughout the season the programs will be augmented with the addition of such acts as: The Nerveless Nocks, Les Thinis, Blinko and Maran, Al Medro, Almiras Duo, Italo Fornasari, Johnny Welde, Walter Patterson, Duke Anderson, Bertini Duo, Tino Walendo Zoppe, Harriott ponies, Rex Williams, The Flying Palacios, The Zamperla Family, Jimmy Fossett's Swaying Stars and Antonio Olmeda.

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EARLY START

Hoxie Bros. Circus' big show opened its 1977 season at West Palm Beach (Fla.) on Sunday, March 20th, in a grassy field next to a suburban shopping center. The '77 edition is bigger than ever....this year moving on 18 semis and 4 straightbeds, plus the numerous house trailers and motor homes belonging to show personnel.

The big top is again a 2 pole round tent, seating about 1,750 people and giving all a good view. An excellent 4 piece band keeps the show moving at a fast pace. The band features electric organ, trumpet, tenor sax and drums.

Phil Chandler is back as ringmaster and also does excellent magic, with his wife, Linda. Johnny Walker has the elephant act, with 3 full-grown bulls and 6 punks, including the young tusker named "Hoxie" (after the show owner).

Roger Boyd, Jr. is in charge of the side show and menagerie, which had good business here in West Palm Beach.

The cat act is very good and 19 year old Michael Cécere is billed as the "World's Youngest Lion Trainer" and he displays a lot of poise and self-assurance in the cage. Act runs some 10 minutes and includes roll-overs, jumps through flaming hoops and the usual whip cracking.

Featured in the Side Show/Menagerie is "Mingo" the gorilla, housed in his own air-conditioned cage, atop a late model semi. This cage was originally with Ringling Bros. and housed "M'Toto" in the late '50s. Also in the menagerie is a semi loaded with 4 cages containing

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Hoxie Tucker was on hand for the date as well as his General Manager John Hall. John Lewis, former owner of Lewis Bros. Circus, is also with it as Hoxie's right hand man.

..... Larry Kent

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Show Report

The 1977 performance offered by Hoxie Bros. Circus includes: Opening Spec "Fantasy on Parade"; Michael Cecere, lions/tigers; Tom Sink, clown; Laura, Graciella, Linda, Yamily and Judith, aerial ballet; Kenny Schappacher, whips; Miss Herriott, pony revue; The Edmundo Troupe, high wire; Yo Yo, the Unridable Mule; Chandler & Co., magic/illusions; John and Laura Walker, elephants; The Diaz Sisters, unicycles and jugglers; Paulette's dogs; Laura Herriott Caudill, and the wonder horse "American Anthem"; The Flying Colombians, flying trapeze and a Fun-filled Finale.

The show's program book lists the staff as: Hoxie and Betty Tucker, owners; John R. Hall, booking manager; George Hodgdon, manager; Ralph Schappacher, supt.; Phil Chandler, ringmaster; Joe Eddy, band leader; Paul Robinson, marketing consultant; Celia Guida, advertising manager; Johnny Walker, Sr., concession manager; Roger Boyd, side show manager; John Lewis, purchasing agent; Johnny Walker, Jr., elephants; Tom Sink, producing clown; Wesley Brown, prop boss; Dorothy Brown, wardrobe; Paul Bohler, transportation; Helen Bohler, front door; Jose Diaz, electrician and Paul Wells, mechanical supt. The show's area representatives are: Col. Edward Smith, Jr., Al Meredith, Jim Raab, Charles Moyer, Dr. Jim Pitts, Ron Bacon.

The program book also lists the following credits: Photographs, Gerry and Kaye Scheiman, Charlie DeWein, Ken Frick and Alan Whitman; Tents by Leaf Tent & Awning Co.; motor vehicle equipment from Johnny Canole; public relations by Betsy Nolan Agency and program editor, Lisa Hall.

Letters

In these days of agony for the baby seals being slaughtered by the Canadians and the Norwegians, there is a cruel slaughter going on of the Alaskan timber wolf.

Despite heavy protests from outraged citizens of this country, and several wildlife organizations, hundreds of wolves have already been killed.

They are now going ahead with another slaughter of all wolves on 144,000 square miles of federal land. The reasons given is that the moose and caribou herds are declining.

Of course they are, but it is the inroads of civilization, the Alaska pipeline, the loss of habitat, and mostly the pressure of unrestricted hunting that is the cause.

The wolves and caribou for instance have lived together in natural balance for centuries. No animal ever caused the extinction of another.

By all means, protest the cruel unnecessary slaughter of the baby seals, but also the wolves of Alaska.

..... Noni Nichols

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Aut Swenson points out some exciting events as he recalls the days of Swenson's Thrillcade, the world's largest stunt car show.

AUT SWENSON . . .

What do you do for an encore? That has been the problem for Aut Swenson ever since he first began thrilling Minnesota racing fans with his offbeat antics in the 1920's. Swenson, now a Springfield (Mo) real estate developer and horse show promoter, captured the Northwest dirt track championship at the age of 18 in a souped-up Model T he called "Jinx".

He numbered his car 13, and painted it yellow, a color other drivers feared as unlucky. He even raced with a black cat sitting in the passenger seat.

"I was never superstitious," Swenson says. "It was just a kiddish idea".

But it was more than that. It was showmanship - the force that stimulated the likes of Evel Knievel and P. T. Barnum.

Driven by an urge to thrill, dazzle and amaze, the young Swedish immigrant's son dropped his mechanical engineering studies at Minnesota University in 1924 to become secretary of the Northwest Racing Association.

He booked races, handled publicity and sold advertising. This led to a job with the late Alex Sloan, one of the top racing promoters of that time.

After a year on his own Swenson went out on his own in 1925. He combined auto racing with daredevil stunts. The promotion flopped.

In 1926 he went out with his Austyn's Greater Flying Circus, featuring three planes, some motorcycles and several cars. He was the first to combine air and ground thrill shows, and it might have worked if the weather had cooperated. More than half of his shows were rained out. It was the making of "a rather disastrous season", he said. His bankroll gone, he went back to work for Sloan. He also did free-lance promotions and pioneered the 100 mile auto race in 1935.

"Wild Sam" Purvis won the race at Camp Foster, Fla., in a V-8 stock Ford and Swenson was among the first to recognize the consistency and speed of stock cars in endurance races against special-built racing cars.

World War II halted auto racing and the thrill shows in 1942 and Swenson spent the war years at Pittsburg, Kans., and Ponca City, Okla., as a civilian training Army pilots.

After the war he went back on the thrill show trail, including a stint with Jimmy Lynch's Death Dodgers. In 1949 he bought the Chitwood Thrill Show franchise and the following year opened with his own Swenson's Thrillcade, based in Springfield (Mo.).

Opening in Corpus Christi, Tex., in Oct. 1950, Swenson's Thrillcade was an instant hit. He included circus acts, musical entertainers and pretty girls and plenty of daredevil auto stunts. In ten consecutive performances at the Canadian National Exhibition at Toronto, Thrillcade outdrew the Ringling-Barnum Circus. In six appearances at the Red River Valley Fair in Fargo, N.D. the show drew the largest crowds ever recorded there.

(Continued on Page 24)

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MORE COMMENT

Governments do not have the right to decide whether the slaughter of baby seals produces results that are profitable and therefore justified.

To know that the results are profitable is not justification enough to allow any nation the freedom to inflict pain upon these helpless and consenting animals. Dante consigned the avaricious to an extremely low level of the Inferno and acts such as these yearly massacres clearly explains why.

..... Roger Heath

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PEOPLE

THE HERNANDEZ TROUPE is working show dates for L. N. Fleckles.

JIM SILVERLAKE has joined Carson & Barnes Circus for the 1977 season.

MORE WOES

Population explosion is not just the problem of governments. It is also a serious problem facing zoo keepers throughout the world. They are concerned and rightfully so since so many animals reproduce too many offspring.

Almost all of the large zoos in the U.S. and Europe are experimenting with contraceptive devices and pills. There are problems, of course and one lioness grew a mane after a hormone treatment, while a lion lost his mane as the result of castration.

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REVIEW (Continued)

This beautifully wardrobe, highly entertaining circus closes with the Young Troupe performing their well known teeterboard-trampoline combination. If any circus ever deserved to survive the vagaries of the circus business, this one does. The audience, a half-house, obviously loved the Continental style circus.

In sharp contrast to the Stardust Circus the Chinese Circus from Taiwan suffers from insufficient preparation. It is billed as 2500 yrs. in rehearsal. There are numerous fluffs during its performance. It can hardly be called circus since most of its acts are of a side show nature. Much more is expected of it as it rides in on the coattails of the Communist Chinese Circus, a truly fine show. Only the closing chair balancing act was impressive as the piling of chairs took the hand balancer all the way up to the top of the stage.

One act does not constitute a show. The acts work to inappropriate western pop tunes on tape. They are unsophisticated in style and presentation. The Santa Barbara audience was obviously bored and unimpressed. It is a shame that this show played to a full house while the Stardust Circus, a very strong show, drew only a half house.

..... Bob Butler

Miscellaneous

This week's route cards for two shows puts both circuses in the same Florida city on the same date. King Bros.-Cole Circus will play New Smyrna Beach on April 9th, the same day that Hoxie's Great American Circus is booked into that city.

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SHOW WRECKED

Mike Martin escaped serious injury last month, but his prop truck and house trailer were completely destroyed in a freak accident when strong winds forced cars and trucks off the highways in Eastern Pennsylvania. Mike and other personnel of the "Happiness Show" suffered only minor injuries. However, most of the show equipment, props, wardrobe, scenery, lighting and some of the small livestock were lost.

A portion of the ten weeks which had been booked through April will be fulfilled. The majority of the dates will be rescheduled for early fall.

Mike was negotiating to feature his "Circus Magic" production with Rudy Jacobi's circus for the coming season, starting late this month and running through November. It is hoped the act will be recreated quickly, with a limited illusion act being presented on the circus while the complete production is reframed enroute.

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MAGIC

Four performances of "It's Magic and More" followed a promotional campaign conducted in Santa Cruz (Calif.) early this month. Two shows were presented on both April 1 and 2.

The program featured: Mr. Blue and Linda, magic/illusions; The Saxons, juggling/unicycles; Ted Weaver, vocalist; Nahmen Nissen, M.C. and Dick Cross, organist.

Following the evening show on April 1st, Mr. Blue (Wally Lee) and Linda were married on stage.

LISA and TED STEWART, aerialists, were delayed getting to the Hubert Castle Circus when they got trapped in a Colorado blizzard.

TOBY REED, high wire performer, has returned to his home after spending 101 days in a hospital as a result of a fall last November at the San Francisco Cow Palace.

PAUL McCausland is working as the catcher in a Carden-Johnson flying act.

PEOPLE

RON WHITFIELD is now working an act with 10 lions and a tiger at Marineland in Redwood City, Calif. He hopes to add another four tigers to the act. Ron also works an elephant act, including an African that measures 9'9" at the shoulder.

JERRY BOOKER has his annual Easter Animal Show underway at Hillsdale (Calif.) Snopping Center.

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BOYCOTT LAUNCHED (Continued)

ent contractors were finding it increasingly difficult to obtain high-quality musicians for the circus.

He also said that many local AFM groups imposed excessive and unrealistic employment conditions on local contractors which resulted in unnecessary and intolerable financial burdens for everyone.

He said that by the end of the 1976 season, after talks with contractors and the AFM it became apparent that the circus could not continue to contract with different local contractors, since these people were unable to provide the show with musicians of a high-quality at a realistic price.

The circus and the AFM began their negotiations in October 1976, then on Feb. 15, AFM president Hal Davis wrote to George Meaney, saying: "Ringling has asked for an immediate elimination of many jobs. The federation refused to agree to these demands, but it did offer a short-term agreement permitting existing working conditions (except for a few instances where there had been no wage increases for two years) to apply for the coming season.

"The Federation proposed that the parties meet again after its June 1977 convention to negotiate a comprehensive, single national agreement. But, because Ringling could not get immediate consent to practically all of its graphic demands, the discussions were terminated with

the statement that it withdrew its previously insistent request for exclusive dealings with the federation."

Ringling's legal counsel, Jerry Sowalsky, says the AFM's claims are full of inaccuracies. We tried to work with them to resolve the problem, he added, and either they were unable because of their own internal situations, or they were unwilling to resolve the problems as we saw them. It was because of this that the method of operations were changed.

Since 1954, all employees of the Ringling-Barnum Circus have belonged to either the AGVA or Int'l Brotherhood of Teamsters and if a strike were called most of the employees would be unable to work.

"There is just one issue and it's simple, says Davis. "After many years of employment by the Ringling Bros. Circus, the professional musicians who are represented by the AFM have been cast aside. Established conditions have been wiped out by the crack of the ringmaster's whip, and professional musicians have lost their jobs. The AFL-CIO and the AFM are asking their members and the public to cooperate in this fight for survival against an attempt by the Ringling Circus to break the union that has represented professional American musicians for more than 80 years."

Davis said that citizens in every town in which the circus plays will be asked not to buy tickets until the dispute is settled.

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Show Notes

The 23rd annual El Katif Shrine Temple Circus at Spokane (Wash) was held on March 17-20 and produced by Hubert Castle.

The show program featured: Joe Hartman, wild animals; Doubleday & Co., revolving ladder; the Marhal camels and llamas; the Maple Grove Arabians; Joanne and Toma; Dennis Sherman, high dive; Lee Marx, juggler; The Olmedas, cyclists; The Droquettes, jugglers; Pamela Rosaire, chimps; Captain Circus, superman; Dale Harney, escape artist; The Marcovich Troupe, Russian swing; Pinson's elephants; Wilson's Pets; Pamela's dogs; The Rock-Smith Flyers; The Freddie's, the Kolmedys and Martinez Trio, balancing; Rosaire and Tony, the wonder horse; Doug Ashton, the circus' Charlie Chaplin; The Commancheros, with the aerial ballet; The Canestrellis, trampoline; The Mad Hatters, juggling; and the Friel-Smith Cannon.

The show staff included: Prof. Clement Toca, band leader; Hubert Castle, producer; Ed Russell, ringmaster; Robert C. Dunham, personnel director; Pablo Martinez, prop boss; Gene Randow, producing clown; M. Tanner Castle, performance co-ordinator and Albert Savage, electrician.

PEOPLE

BOBBY GIBBS purchased the elephant "Nellie" from Safari Park in Puerto Rico for **DOREY MILLER**.

REX WILLIAMS recently had to have his big male elephant "Reed" put to sleep. The animal was in bad health and suffered a great deal.

HARRY THOMAS has purchased 5 new tiger cages from Safari Park in Puerto Rico. The all steel units were made for Josip Marcan during his extended work at the park.

JIM SWAFFORD and animal trainers **WADE BURCK** and **MICHON** visited the Stardust Circus during its engagement at Oxnard, Calif.

GUY GOSSING was recently slashed across the face by his tiger "Sahib" leaving a wound that required 15 stitches. Gossing finished the act with a towel wrapped around his head before going to the hospital.

a Lot of It

What is believed to be the largest advertising banner in circus history was sold recently at the Amara Shrine Circus in West Palm Beach (Fla), where the show was held on March 19 and 20th. "The banner was unique in another way," said Circus Co-ordinator Paul Robinson, "as it advertised a competing event, the Dade County Youth Fair at Miami."

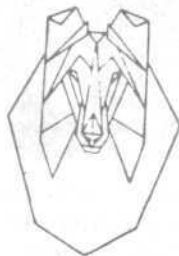
The 3x74 ft. sign cloth will be certified and sent to the Guinness Book of World Records, Robinson said. It was sold by Bannerman Matt Wiltshire, Jr., who initially solicited Deggeller Amusement Co., whose carnival plays the Dade County Event, and after the first contribution, concessionaires were asked to contribute to make the banner longer.

OHIO DATE

The program offered for the Shrine Circus engagement at Akron, Ohio, by Polack Bros. on March 17-19 (7 performances) included:

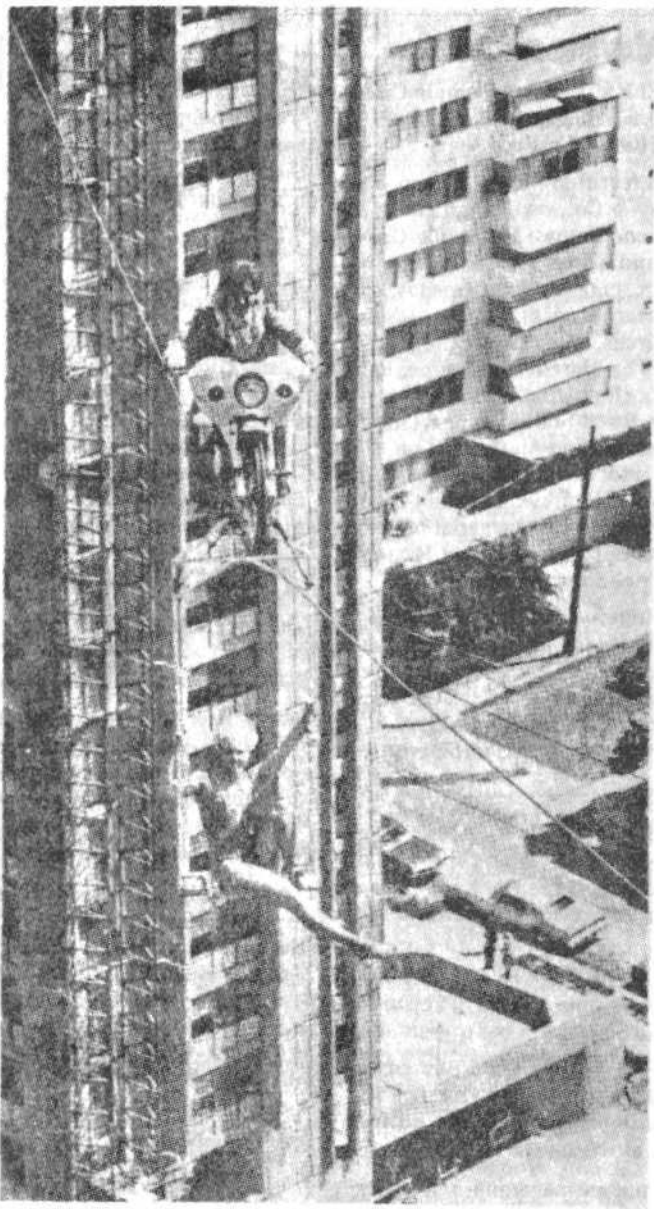
Parley Baer, ringmaster; Clown come-in; Over-ture; Lilli Ana, leopards; Clown levitation; Senor Aston, balancing trapeze; Susan Sheryll's Afghans; Agostinos, Roman chair; Raquelle, cloud swing and web; Clown boxing match; Stoyanoff, horizontal bars.

After intermission were: Johnny Laddie, unsupported ladders; The Flying Willastons; The Navarros, unicycles; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Revue; Lubins, perch act and the Polack Bros. circus elephants.



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Circus daredevil Vashek and his wife, Cathy, are stopped by the camera midway through a series of aerial maneuvers on a 1,500 foot long high wire as they performed above San Juan, Puerto Rico on March 3rd. The death-defying feat was part of a promotion for Circus Odyssey which was appear at San Juan's Roberto Clemente Coliseum.

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PEOPLE

GIL GREY, retired circus owner, was awarded a special plaque during the annual Akdar Shrine Circus in Tulsa, Okla. The award was made for Mr. Grey's friendship and encouragement over the past 32 years. He organized and produced their first circus and continued to produce the circus for many years, without even a contract.

The LOS ESPANOS, a Mexican flying act, now with Circo Atayde, will arrive in the U.S. on April 16th to play Syracuse for George Hubler, followed by dates with Tommy Hanneford, Eddie Zacchini and Sam T. Polack.

AUT SWENSON (Continued)

Three shows grew out of Thrillcade and for a time he operated Austyn's Motor Derby, Olin's Hippodrome and the World Series of Thrills. During those years his schedule rivaled the timetables of a railroad. The shows peaked in 1958, he says, with the best year of all.

Problems with overhead, insurance, unions and other business worries forced Swenson to put the shows on the shelf in 1967. He bought an auto agency, operated it a year and sold it, then turned his full attention to real estate development. He now develops areas, builds duplexes and apartments.

At 75 he hasn't slowed down and he still books thrill shows and horse shows in the Springfield (Mo.) area.

He has hundreds of souvenir books, all left over from his Thrillcade Days. "There must be some collectors or kids imbued with gasoline who might want them," he says.

GEORGE HANNEFORD will have his Hanneford Family Circus at the Atlantic City (N. J.) Steel Pier during the summer season.

LOOMIS DEAN, who was with RBBB's Press Dept., for several years (1937-1940) is now with Time-Life Int'l in Paris.

KARL WALLEND, along with RIETTA and MARIO, plus DAVID GLUCKO worked a three day engagement at the Sports Show in Fargo, N.D., last month. Appearing on the same show were wire walker JAMES CHRISTOPHER and the PLUNKETTS trampoline number.



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PEOPLE

SALLY ASHTON is now stooging for the Stewarts in their gorilla parody.

JEANNIE SMITH (Rock-Smith Flyers) expects her baby in about two months.

The BARRY MILLER TROUPE opens with the Famous Hunt Circus on April 25th.

NORMAN BIGELOW, magician, recently injured his back making a dive into the Klamath River (Oregon) in an attempt to recreate an old Houdini feat.

LEE GRABLE has his 90 minute magic show booked for a series of 60 dates along the west coast and will feature a floating piano.

KIRK KIRKHAM has his magic/illusion show booked on a steady series of shopping center promotions.

WANTED

CLOWN - Must be capable of working come-in routines and also assist in magic illusion numbers.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

trainer said, "No," then Stan asked which cat act Manuel worked. "The lions," he replied. "Well," said the perpetually dazed Stanley, "WHO works the tigers?" "HARRY," shouted the black trainer in exasperation. Stanley sighed: "I just can't tell the two of you apart" (!) and that's a "Stanley Steamer!"
See you down the road, luvs.

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2½ ton INT'L - 1969 - 4 speed transmission - 103,000 miles on original engine, no problems. Has 18 ft. box on back with front compartment with side door, Can carry hay, etc. We carried an elephant in this truck.

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MOON WALK - Midway attraction - In good shape, hardly used.

BIG TOP - 80 ft. wide and 120 ft. long with a 40 ft. middle. Blue and White vynal coated dacron.

CONCESSION TRAILER - 33 ft. This is a combination concession and office unit with a ticket window and living space. Lots of holding tanks. Concessions in rear of trailer. Has 3 axles and is 2 yrs. old and in excellent condition. Looks like any normal trailer going down the highway. No weigh station stops if pulled by a pick-up or camper. Also have some concessions left over.

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Show Acts

A benefit show, to raise money to send retarded children to camp this summer was held at Chabot College in Hayward (Calif) on March 27th. Sponsored by the East Bay Camp Fund, the show was the first of two special programs that have been planned in the area.

The March 27th show featured: Tex Williams, country western singer; Pauline Roth, singer; Richard Lawson, actor; The Bettencourt Rock Band and Tom Prince, magician.

WANTED

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Stan dresses and looks like a magician and is assisted by his lovely wife, Kathy (who makes several costume changes during the show), plus two young men who are always there when needed. A brief solo appearance by an assistant "Rosen" shows what a capable magician this young man is. Pleasing music and special lighting adds to the presentations.

..... Judy Twomey

Miscellaneous

Circus skills, such as juggling, wire walking and trapeze, are currently being offered by the Berkeley (Calif.) YMCA in a special class scheduled for each Monday evening.

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