



8th Year

June 4, 1979

Number 23

## Zoo Has Problem

The operator of a Backyard Zoo at Concord, Calif., faces the possible loss of his animals because he is having trouble trying to make a loan payment. A balloon payment of \$7,300 is now past due and Duane Ripley owes this on a \$43,000 loan he took out on his property.

Ripley feels he will be able to raise the money if given a little more time. He is also concerned about another big payment that will be due in November. He has run into financial problems because he had to spend time and money updating his facility to meet the city standards.

The collection of animals hopefully will be the nucleus of what is planned as a local zoo. At the moment the property is a complex of chain-link fence cages with concrete floors and a drainage system that feeds into the sewer.

Animals housed in the small zoo include five mountain lions, two leopards, an African lion, several kinds of monkeys, two raccoons and a black bear. Also housed there are some deer, a turkey, sheep, pigmy goats and rheas. These latter animals will be part of a Petting Zoo that Ripley and his supporters hope to open this fall.

When Ripley purchased the land he thought

it was far enough out of town that it wouldn't matter how many animals he had. However, civilization has caught up with him and a major street runs through the area. Right alongside of the property is an office complex which has lodged several complaints about the zoo and its animal collection.

Last year the Contra Costa Zoological Society was formed after a battle with the city. That group numbers about 300 members and they aid in the support of the zoo. It is hoped the group will grow into some 500 or more members, then they can actively seek a new and permanent site.

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## Acts

Variety acts on tour in Europe with the Harlem Globe trotters include: The Wainwrights, trampoline act; The Shayne Trio, balancing acrobats; The Marchitas, bicyclists; Wasil, hand balancer; Dick Franco, juggler; The Dymeks, pole-voltige and Les Romanos, French cycle act.

All bookings were handled through Simone Finner Enterprises, the California based theatrical agency specializing in novelty acts.

Acts signed thus far for upcoming Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus dates are:

June 23 - Lake Elsinore, Calif. - Bruce Anderson, thrill act, Chester Cable, foot juggler; Wini McKay, trapeze; the Great Huberto, slide for life; Los Latinos, wire act and Virginia Lee Fenton, musician.

June 29-July 4 - Marin County Fair at San Rafael, Ca. - Wini McKay, trapeze; Chester Cable, foot juggler; the Great Huberto, slide for life; Los Latinos, wire act; John McPeak, juggler; Mr. Bob and his Toy Boy, knock-about; The Trio Oakleys, teeterboard/risley; Virginia Lee Fenton, musician.

July 14 - Lakeside, Ohio - The Elkins Sisters - acrobatics with dogs.

Aug. 8-18 - Kentucky State Fair at Louisville, Ky - The Great Vashek, inclined wire walk; the Vashek Duo, aerial motorcycle; Kim Kristensen, dressage horse; Lilli-Ana, leopard act; Virginia Lee Fenton, musical director with a 10 piece band.

## Miscellaneous

15 baby African elephants were recently shipped out of South Africa, with some of them destined for the zoo in Portland, Ore.

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## Show Report

SHRINE CIRCUS . . . by Ron Lucza

The 25th annual Melha Shrine Circus at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass., gave performances on May 10-13 and featured the following program.

Overture; Spec; Aerial Ballet featuring Miss Cherill, Miss Sherry and Miss Isabella; the Hawthorne Performing Tigers with Wade Burck; Miss Isabella, balancing on a bicycle; Ron Perry & Co., juggling; The Knops, double perch; Howarth Chimps; Sophia Knop, on the single trapeze; Clown Ballet featuring Dime Wilson and the Shrine Circus Clowns; Joanne and Don Anderson, horse act; John Nock, Jr., chair balancing; The Knop Duo, head balancing; Les Marek Flyers; Intermission; Wade Burck, with a white tiger riding an elephant; The Riano's Duo, slack wire; Eugene and Aurelia Nock, tight wire; The Jabcszinski Troupe of teeterboard artists; The Melha Clowns; the Hamid-Morton Circus elephants; The Nerveless Nocks, four swaypoles.

Earl Michaels was the ringmaster/announcer and the show's band leader was Dan Conn.

Circus fans attending the circus in addition to the writer were Wayne McCary, Joe Tinty and Ron Richards.

## PEOPLE

THE WALTENS FAMILY, balancing act, will be appearing at Gaslight Village in Lake George, N.Y. for the summer season - June 15 thru Sept. 9th.

ROY and SUSAN HUSTON have completed their engagement at Montreal where the magic show was very successful. Featured illusions were: The Drum, The Mummy's Tomb, Light Bulbs thru Girl, Crystal Casket and The Cremation.

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

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- Vargas Circus - General Vargas (white Arab bred stallion)
- Joan Pinson - Toma (registered Morgan)
- Joni the Zoni (half zebra - half pony) owned by Townsend, Ind., Altoona, Ia.

# SHOW DATES

Beatty-Cole Circus  
June 11 Gettysburg, Pa.

Bentley Bros. Circus  
June 4-6 Monterey, Calif.  
7 King City  
9 Marysville

Big John Strong Circus  
June 5-6 Tulsa, Okla.  
7 Ottawa  
8-9 Kansas City, Mo.  
10-11 St. Louis

Carden-Johnson Circus  
June 4-10 Kalamazoo, Mich.

Hubert Castle Circus  
June 4 Grand Prairie, Alab.  
5 Dawson Creek, BC  
6-7 Prince George  
8 Williams Lake  
9 Kamloops  
10 Revelstoke

Circus Vargas  
June 5-7 El Cerrito, Calif  
8-11 Palo Alto

Coronas Circus  
June 5-13 W. Orange, NJ

El Jebel Temple Shrine Circus  
June 8-13 Denver, Colo.

Funs-A-Poppin Circus  
June 4-9 Santa Maria, Calif

Great American Circus  
June 4 Titusville, Pa.  
5 Bradford  
6 Smithport  
7 Kane  
8 Ridgeway  
9 Brookville  
10 Clarion

Hamid-Morton Circus  
June 7-10 Providence, R.I.

Tommy Hanneford Circus  
to Sept. 12 Middletown, Oh

Bill Kay Circus  
June 8-9 Grand Junct. Colo

Monte Carlo Circus  
June 4-6 Richmond, Va.  
8-10 Greenville, SC

Pickle Family Circus  
June 9-10 Garberville, Calif

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit  
June 5-6 Wheeling, W. Va.  
8-10 Lexington, Ky.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
June 5-17 Philadelphia, Pa

Wenatchee Youth Circus  
June 3 Mansfield, Wash.

---- MAGIC ----

Prf. Miller - Magic Time USA  
June 3-6 E. St. Louis, Ill.  
9 Clinton  
10 Bradley

Tom Ogden - Magician  
June 8-9 Tulsa, Okla.

---- OTHER DATES ----

Butler Bros. Shows  
June 7-10 Oakland, Calif.

CFA Convention  
June 10-13 Gettysburg, Pa.

Clowns, Inc.  
June 8-10 Rose Point, Pa

James H. Drew Exposition  
June 4-9 Oceana, W. Va.

Gutis Family - Jungle Parody  
June 8-13 Denver, Colo.

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

Kaye's Hollywood Elephants  
June 4-6 Monterey, Calif  
7 King City  
9 Marysville

Lemoine Troupe - High Act  
June 6-8 Granite City, Ill.

Mr. Sensation - Aerialist  
June 4-10 Kalamazoo, Mich

Print Pacific '79  
June 7-9 San Francisco, Ca.

Zoppe Animal Act  
June 9-10 Livermore, Calif



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## Flash!

CHARLES GERMAINE has been given a contract to produce the 1979 PAL Circus at the Cow Palace in San Francisco on Nov. 24-25.

In addition to the above dates Germaine has booked three weeks of circus dates for the fall season. He plans to increase this tour to seven or so weeks in 1980.

*The 3rd  
GENERATION*

# WONDER BEARS

FOUR BEARS AND A DALEMATION

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A PERSONAL INTERVIEW with CLIFF VARGAS at Antioch (Ca) in early May reveals those rumors concerning his circus going on rails have no foundation. Cliff says he is not even remotely considering the possibility for several reasons: too expensive, too complicated, and too slow. Were such a transition to be made he would lose play-days which he cannot afford to lose. He is, however, planning to add a gas truck and at least one more unit to carry spec floats. In 40 odd weeks last season the show traveled only 12,000 miles which Cliff hopes to pare this year. Vargas was recently in the east, visiting New York and Pittsburgh.

WHEN a section of a stage was removed DIANE WILSON (unaware of its removal) fell during her seal act at a mall and broke her left leg. The stage had been formed by a series of long tables and one had been carried off for another purpose. The accident happened about ten weeks ago, forcing cancellation of her tour with Garden's Showtime Follies, but the cast is off and Diane is getting about and driving again. Later this spring she will be at Magic Forrest at Lake George (NY). Speaking of broken legs WALLY NAGHTIN is recovering from his and expects to be back in the Ringling Red program with his bear act very soon. WALLY and DORIS return to Ringling in 1980 and were visited in New York by CLIFF VARGAS, and BUCKLES and BARBARA WOODCOCK.

WHILE touring with Int'l All Star, UNCLE HEAVY (Hines) had his truck stolen which was found burned. Two pigs were lost in the blaze. Other news from that unit is that HINES RUCKER is back after overseeing problems with "Jubilee On Ice" and that TERRY O'BRIEN filled in as Manager during Rucker's absence. BONNIE & CLYDE spot-dated the Emmett Kelly Jr. Circus during time off on the All Star route.

THE new under-canvas format of IAN GARDEN'S Garden Bros. Circus is working out extremely well. Business was so good at one mall the show was asked to stay over an extra day, but couldn't because of a tight schedule. The show is playing 3 and 4 day stands some longer as in Ottawa, so it appears the new format will be used again in 1980.

CLOSEUPS: JENNY WALLEDA is offering an "information service" to agents and bookers seeking acts but says she needs the routes of acts if she is to serve as intermediary. . . TINO WALLEDA ZOPPE will ap-

pear for a week with the Burr Carnival in New England, set by BETTER BOOKING. . . While appearing in Washington, DC with Ringling Blue the Woodcock kids attended a party for President Carter's daughter AMY. . . BUCKLE'S right hand man GARY JACOBSEN left after six years to take over the elephants at the Nugget in Sparks (Nev). . . Did you know that BOB TOP & EDNA and son ROYCE are Nudists? Edna, with the droll sense of humor of the British laughingly remarks: "We've got two strikes against us! First we're circus performers, second we're nudists!" . . .

The ALBULET BROS. are no longer with Circus Vargas. . . JUDY KAYE's mother DOLLY JACOBS died in Oregon in March. . . BOBBY KAY was hospitalized but released in April and, though weakened, walks about a half block a day and is regaining his strength. . . BETTY ESCALANTE tossed a birthday gala for hubby PHIL on Mar. 17th. and spent the evening putting ice packs on TOMMY BENTLEY'S swollen knee. . . Well remembered trapeze great FRANKIE LOU WOODS is living in retirement in Jonesboro (Ark). . . Frankie is not well and is being nursed by her mother. . . The KNEISELEY DUO will make the Texas dates, also Hawaii for PAUL KAYE. . . Bentley Bros. are carrying gas drums to move their show during the current California junket. . . AERIALETTA/JO-ANN & SUNNY made a series of dates in May for JOSE COLE. . . FRANK & ESTRELETA were also on the program. . . When I kidded the fabulous JOSELITO about waving his arms while crossing the high wire to dress the rigging between shows he looked down, folded his arms, and walked back across as though he were on the ground. "What next?" he asked, "No legs," I answered. So don't be surprised if this ingenious performer next starts crossing the wire on his hands! . . . The PLUNKETT Family, JAMES ZOPPE RIDERS, both made dates in northern Michigan for DONNY JOHNSON's unit of Carden-Johnson.

ENROUTE back from an exhausting tour of the west (I'll never do THAT again) which involved three blizzards (I was stranded trying to get over Donner Pass), hail, sleet, dust, wind and rain, I stopped to visit BILL and TRUDY STRONG at their Springfield (O) farm. The couple, along with Bill and Donna Banister, had just returned from a lengthy tour with Cir-

(Continued on Page 16)

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**Show Report**

This year's Great American Circus features Billy Martin, announcer/performance director, with Dave Miller, musical director.

The program includes: Spec "Circusland on Parade"; Juggling display with the Bobbie-Jane Duo, Billy Martin and the Don-Marie Duo; Miss Beth, tightwire; Color Book Sale; Kohl's Dog Pound Revue; Texas Don Strong and Miss Betty, ropes/whips; the Lang Family, trampoline; Clowns with 'Center of Town'; Miss Margo, hand balancing; Aerial Ballet, swinging ladders; Peanut Sale; Joe Frisco and Miss Beth, elephants; Intermission; Miss Jacylon, bounding rope; Balloons; Spanish webs; Dick Kohlrrieser's Merry Menagerie; Clowns and the Camera; Gorilla Parody, Mongo, Bongo and Miss Vickie; Yoshi Numa, hair hang; Exit March.

**PEOPLE**

**JOHNNY WEISSMULLER**, former screen Tarzan star, has been transferred to a mental health facility in the Los Angeles area. He had been confined to the Motion Picture & Country Hospital at Woodland Hills (Calif.)

**GARNET W. COCHRANE** recently visited the Martin & Downs Circus at several Canadian spots. He reports the CFA held a "cookout" on the show lot at Port Dover on May 19th

**DORIAN BLAKE** and **JANICE** visited the Oscar Macias Family along with illusionist **KALIMAR** when Roberts Bros. Circus played Belmont, NC.

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## CORRECTION

The report on Page 18, of the May 7, 1979 issue of Circus Report concerning the death of Gunther Bruch was in error.

"Mr. Bruch who died recently in Sarasota was properly and quickly interred and buried by Mrs. Hemion (f/k/a Mrs. Gunther Bruch). His body was not left unclaimed, nor was he buried by the city or any other governmental agency."

There was no intent by the writer or Circus Report to slander Mrs. Brenda Hemion, of Sarasota, Fla.

## TV Special

A number of interesting features were offered by the Guinness Book of Records TV Show aired nation-wide the night of May 20th.

Performers featured on the show included: Bob Correll, making a record 269 ft. jump with his kite-cycle; Farrell Hettig, winning a 39 degree wire walk in 58.9 seconds; Henry La Mothe, making a 40 ft. dive into 12 inches of water; John Massis, attempting to hold down a helicopter with his teeth; Don Cook with a beard of bees (17,500 bees); and Bill Shrik escaping from a strait jacket while suspended upside down from a helicopter (14.4 seconds).

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## SHOW CLOSED

Circus Scott, Sweden's oldest international circus has folded its tents, thus ending its 365 years of circus history.

Director Kate Bronett says the show closed because the Stockholm fire department ruled the main tent was a fire hazard and the show did not have the money to buy a new one.

Circus Scott was established in 1614, and held its final performances in the Stockholm ice stadium.

Also seen was a group of 530 tap dancers; a 29 ft. 6 in car valued at \$100,000; a 21 ft. 8 in. long hot dog weighing 130 lbs; a 6 ft. 3 in. cigar weighing 26 lbs, and a two headed snake.

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## PEOPLE

J. ALLEN DUFFIELD, CFA secretary, will be teaching a class "The American Circus: Yesterday and Today" at Shippensburg (Pa) State College the week of July 22nd.

THE VASHEK DUO, aerial motorcycle act, will be appearing with the Dobritch Int'l Circus at Wheaton (Ill) on June 21-24.

CARLA WALLEDA GUZMAN will produce a mini circus at The Enchanted Forest in Old Forge, N. Y., for the summer season.

STEVE McPEAK, high wire performer, was featured in the May 20th Guinness Book of Records special where he walked on the world's highest stilts.

LILLI-ANA's Leopards will tour with the BILL KAY Circus in Colorado and Idaho this month.

EDNA ANTES, secretary/treasurer of the Beatty-Cole Circus, will be the guest speaker at the Ladies Luncheon at the CFA Convention in Gettysburg.

JORGE ROSELL has his comedy car with a unit of the Gatini Circus in Canada for the summer season.

### For A Biography Of

### HARRY BLACKSTONE, SR. (1885-1965)

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

DAN WALDRON

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## SPECIAL

Mattel, Inc., parent company of Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus, has asked its stockholders to approve a plan that would merge Mattel with Western Publishing Co. Inc. A vote will be taken at the annual meeting of stock holders of Mattel, Inc., on June 14th, at the meeting in the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Under the plan as announced shareholders of Western stock will receive cash or shares of Mattel or both. Western publishes books, manufactures puzzles and is engaged in commercial printing.

Stock holders of Western will also be meeting to vote on the merger

In addition to the Ringling-Barnum Circus, Mattel is the owner of the Monte Carlo Circus, Circus World Park, Radnitz/Mattel Productions and recently was able to acquire three ice shows. This makes them a major force in the home and family entertainment field.

## Miscellaneous

The Blackpool Tower Circus opens on May 27th with Charlie Cairoli, once again heading a big international bill, and with Mary Chipperfield providing several groups of animals.



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This Way to the Big Show (Fellows) ...	\$ 20
Lions n Tigers n Everything (Cooper) ..	\$ 16
We Fell in Love with the Circus .....	\$ 15
Pictorial History of American Circus ..	\$ 20
Wild Tigers and Tame Fleas .....	\$ 6
Pictorial History of American Carnival	\$ 15.95
Circus Parade (Phyllis Fenner) .....	\$ 3

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## NOTICE

In some of your past Circus Reports, your writers have named us incorrectly in their articles. At this time I'd like to bring this matter to your attention. Our correct name is "The Chris Alberti's Acrobatic Poodle Revue" - we do not go by the name of Chris Alberti Duo.

We feel that the incorrect name could present future business losses and/or confusion. I'd appreciate any effort on your part to alleviate this problem.

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## MAN:AC

During the Omaha Shrine Circus, author Billy Barton was spotlighted in a five minute televised news segment in the middle of major national news. Publicity was arranged by Shriner Mark Anthony who handles press for the Tangiers Shrine Temple. Other such strategic news coverage is scheduled for the performer during upcoming professional engagements this season.

The Omaha segment combined shots of Billy Barton's aerial act Mister Sensation with in-depth coverage of his forthcoming novel "Past Murder Imperfect" written under the name of William Lewis Barton.

Due to delays effected by bookings, publication is being pushed back until the winter of 1979-80. Mystery lovers can expect future books. A second novel "All Fall Down and Play Dead" is outlined and plotted and will be released several months after the first.

Meanwhile, the performer will continue working throughout this year and at least into the spring of 1980 as major Shrine dates have already been signed starting in January with Grand Rapids. Following the 1980 Winter Season, however, bookings will be arranged only if they do not conflict with Barton's publishing schedule and then only in connection with his writing career.

## "4 High In The Wind"

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## Show Date

CARDEN-JOHNSON CIRCUS . . . by Kaye Scheiman

The Carden-Johnson Circus came to Terre Haute, Ind on an April 20-22 engagement and offered an outstanding performance for the local Shrine Temple.

Celo Plunkett was the show's ringmaster, while the music was in charge of Mike Pike. Bobby Gibbs served as animal supt.

The program featured: Clowns with Balloons; National Anthem; Introductions; Spec with circus performers and floats; Red Hartman or George Carden, lions (5); The Cavanaugh's, cradle; Cucillo, trampoline; The Clown Baseball Game; Fossetts, bikes; Zerbini, teeterboard; Chin Baez Troupe, unicycle; Alberto Zoppe Riding Academy; Armando, balance; Gina, balance; Clorax Bros., a Zerbini knock-about; Bobby Gibbs, mules; Murray Hill, single elephant; Cucillo, ponies; Aerial Ballet featuring Maya on single trapeze; The Rosalls, high wire; Hanzine, ladder balance; Gilbertos, bounding rope; Gina's unsupported ladder; The Flying Carrolls; Bobby Gibbs, dogs; Alberto Zoppe's Animals; Yoxall, goat and pigs; Clown boxing match; Hanzina, gorilla; Evelyn Fossett, Lady in the Moon; Red Hartman, camels; Bobby Gibbs, llamas; Cucillo, llamas; the Zerbini Riding Act; Steve Patton or Murray Hill, elephants; The Swaying Stars (Fossett).

## MAIL BAG

from William Watsch

I was there when the Cincinnati Gardens opened with the Ice Follies about 1934/35. For over 30 years I worked at the Cleveland Arena, where Oscar Johnson of the Ice Follies was on our board of directors. They had an interest in the building.

The Ice Follies were planning a circus number and had been told we had an old calliope in storage and they offered to buy it. We pulled it out of a corner of the building and found it needed a lot of work, but Mr. Johnson said they would fix it.

Anyway, the Ice Follies bought the calliope and we crated it, then shipped it to San Francisco where the show used to hold its yearly rehearsals.

When the Ice Follies came to the Cincinnati Gardens some of us went over to the building. After a tour of the building and a look backstage we were given ring side seats.

The circus number came on late in the show and it included skaters in clown costumes, some riding bicycles, some acrobats, etc. Finally along came a skater in a clown costume playing our old calliope, only now it looked all fancy and like new. It sure did shine in the colored spotlights.



## FRANK STROUT

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# WASH TUBBS

GREAT AMERICAN CIRCUS . . . by Dorian Blake

The Great American Circus played Siler City, N.C., on May 5-6, and we arrived on the lot only thirty minutes prior to the evening performance on May 5 and were immediately welcomed by Billy Martin and the Lang Family.

Prior to the performance we took a quick tour of the lot, with Robbie Lang acting as our guide. He insisted we see the Ape Show on the Midway, which we did. But Janice and I declined when it came to the snakes, never having developed a liking for such creatures. We then made our way to the main tent and took our seats.

The program featured: Dave Miller at the organ; Spec "Fantasy on Parade"; Display with juggling by the Bobby-Jane Duo and Don & Marie, with Billy Martin doing rola bola; Miss Beth, tightwire; Coloring Book Pitch; Kohl's Dog Pound Revue; Texas Don and Miss Betty, ropes and whips; The Lang Family, trampoline/tumbling; Clowns in "Center of Town"; Miss Margo, hand balancing and one finger stand; Aerial Ballet with swinging ladders; Peanut Pitch; Joe Frisco and Miss Beth, elephants; Intermission; Miss Jacquelyn, bounding rope; Miss Beth and Miss Vickie, aerial webs; Kohlriseser's Merry Menagerie; Clowns with a Camera; Mongo, Bongo & Miss Vickie (featuring Billy Martin); Yoshi Numa, hair suspension;

# PEOPLE

MARCELO and PAUL HORTOBAGYI, of the Great Junior Hortobagyi Troupe, are the proud parents of a baby boy - Jean-Paul - born on May 12th, and weighing in at 8 lbs. 10 oz.

JOHN NOCK, Jr. (15 years old) made his circus debut at the Shrine Circus in West Springfield, Mass., on May 10-13. The Nervless Nocks now feature four sway poles in their act.

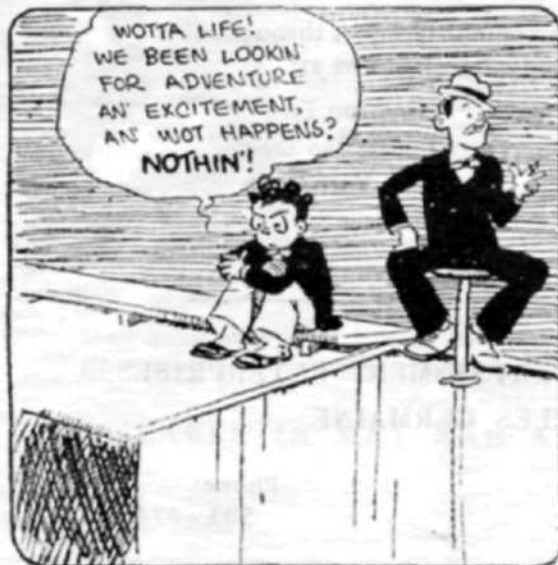
CARLOS OBANDO was featured in the Rochester, NY, Democrat and Chronicle on Feb. 15th. The full color photo showed him on the tightwire.

Finale; Exit March.

The show staff includes: Hoxie Tucker, owner; Jim Silverlake, manager; Billy Martin, ringmaster/equestrian director; Dave Miller, band leader; Dickie Palmer, concessions; Enoch Brafford, big top/supt.; Marilyn Silverlake, office; Joe Frisco, elephants.

After the Saturday evening performance members of the show gathered around a bonfire for a cookout, hosted by the Lang Family. The next five hours were spent in good fellowship and of course catching up on the latest gossip. During this time we learned the show was expecting delivery of a new 90 ft. x 90 ft. top on May 10th, at which time many three ring displays will be added.

## WASHINGTON TUBBS II





## MONTE CARLO CIRCUS . . . by Don Sandman

The Monte Carlo Circus played a three day engagement at the University of Dayton Arena in Dayton, Ohio, May 11-13.

The one ring format was loaded with talent although because of recent accidents on previous dates the Albercines and Luis Munoz were not performing. The Richter Family with their riding and elephants/teeterboard stole the show as far as local CFA's were concerned.

The Eotovs clown and bar acts were equally entertaining, as were the Karoly Donnert tigers, the Duo Dobritch, the Silagas Troupe, Gene Mendez and of course Elvin Bale. Sergio keeps the action going and fills any stalls with an appropriate feature. His going into the audience makes them feel they are a part of the show.

One nice thing about this show is that the vendors do not sell in the arena during the performance. The total number of animals include: 6 Bengal tigers, 3 elephants, 8 horses and 4 chimps. But you'd think they had more. During the local run the animals were all housed in a yellow tent in the backyard, where some of us lucky CFA's were able to see the 3 baby tigers.

## CIRCUS SHOW . . . by Don Sandman

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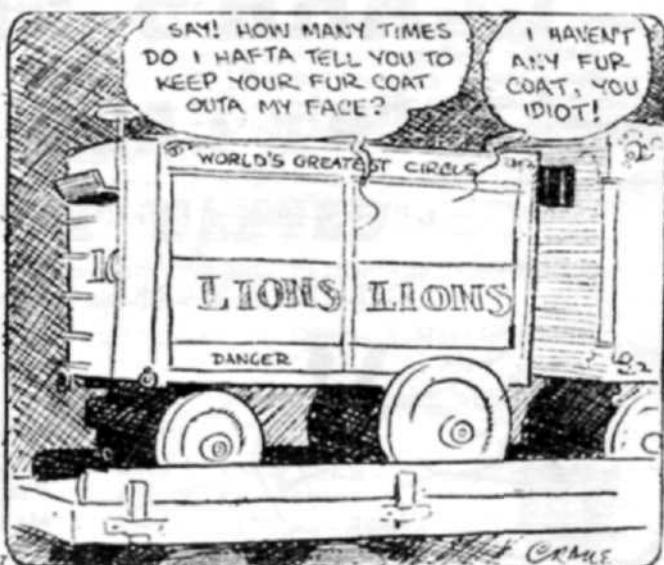
4775 Randall Ave., Winston-Salem, NC 21704

The Robbins Bros. Ring of the CMB had a special Circus Show at Springfield, Ohio, April 24 thru May 13th. The Art Center reported that had this been a real circus they'd have had straw houses for each of the shows. School children were brought in from all over the area to view the huge display.

The display included model circuses and collections of such things as programs, lithos, side show banners, letterheads, flyers, etc. There was also a Clown Alley with Smiley the Clown and Topcat the Clown working during the presentation.

The Robbins Ring was assisted by the Harold Barnes Tent CFA. They also displayed current paper for the engagement of the Monte Carlo Circus set up at the main entrance.

## By Crane



**BILLY BARTON (Continued)**

co Atayde and Bill and Trudy were singing the praises of Mexico and the Atayde brothers. They said the show was beautiful, their treatment outstanding, and they can't wait to go back. On two occasions Bill narrowly missed being seriously injured. Once when a chain left in the girders fell and passed his head by inches, and again when the winch failed and son David managed to set the emergency brake in the nick of time. Bill's end of the boom bent hinge-like and Trudy, who was holding the web tightly, burned and blistered both hands. They showed me pictures of the tour, and countless objects they'd brought back for their house. The next morning Trudy ran through her new Dalmation dog act which she debuted this month in Birmingham (Ala) with GEORGE HUBLER. The dogs work like liberty horses and is sure to be a novel and exciting act. Trudy is another STRUPPI, anything she sets her mind to turns out first rate. The gal has class and style and is a perfectionist. She plans to work the act in English Classic, with a steeplechase routine utilizing miniature hedges, and very smart riding habits as her costume, abbreviated to show off her lovely legs and stunning figure. Each dog, incidentally is named after circus producers. The odd thing is the dogs look like the persons for whom they were named and share their namesakes' attributes. "Kelly"

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**WAYNE McCARY**, of the Eastern States Exposition (West Springfield, Mass.) has signed the Royal Hanneford Circus to appear at the Exposition on Sept. 12 to 17th.

**COTTON CANDY**, (Bill Williams) worked a shopping center mall in San Pablo, Calif., on May 19th.

**DAVID LEE**, an 8 year old juggler, is currently featured with the Liberace Show.

for instance, named for Emmett, Jr. is always clowning around. At the moment Trudy has ten dogs performing but plans to replace at least two that aren't working out. No sir, not on your life, will I mention those two producers she plans to axe!

SEE you down the road, luv.

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# SAWDUST TRAIL

... by M. L. DUPONT

Oooph's, I've goofed again. My apologies to Wilson Poarch, Jr. Editor of Southern Sawdust, and Mike Martin, magician. It seems that in one of my columns I reported that Mike's lovely wife would adorn the cover of the 25th anniversary issue of "Southern Sawdust". What I meant to have said was that she would appear in that issue. The covers of all "Southern Sawdust" magazines are picked several months in advance and I hope that I have not offended either of my two good friends.

ABC Sunday News (May 13) carried a report on the danger of keeping wild animals and snakes as pets. Some of the owners of these animals have suffered tragic results. One owner of a cobra was bitten by it just 10 hours after he had purchased it. The owner of a lion lost his wife when the lion attacked her and had to be shot.

It has been reported that the La. Purchase Gardens & Zoo have made arrangements with Murray Hill to provide elephant rides for Zoo Day. This could be the biggest Zoo Day in history and the area will be fortunate in being able to see some fine animals that will be brought in by Mr. Hill. Also taking part in the Zoo Day events will be DoDo the Clown, who also plays other local area dates, as well as circus dates.

The Shrine Circus at Little Rock and Pine Bluff were produced by Sam T. Polack. Al Dawley was the ringmaster, Al Vernon directed the music and Ron Kelroy handled props.

On April 21st, the Ringling Museum of Art sponsored a children's Art Carnival. There were clowns and calliope music and many children came with their faces painted up as clowns. The project was called a very successful event.

The Fabulous Farrell Bros., of high wire fame, were hired by the Altman Chevrolet Co. in Sarasota to ad-

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vertise the new Chevy's. These performers appeared on TV's Guinness Book of Records Show, seen nationwide on May 20th.

Kentucky Fried Chicken had tie-ins with the Shrine circuses at Pine Bluff and Little Rock. It's good to see local groups getting behind the circus and helping to sponsor and promote it.

Recently a TV crew was in Florida filming the Sailor Circus. This is an excellent show and the TV film crew were working for the program "The Big Blue Marble." It will be syndicated to 165 television stations.

The program I acquired from the Beatty-Cole Circus was that of 1978, as the new ones hadn't been received as yet. However, they had an insert with the 1979 program listed. Their large Clown Alley is headed by Jimmy James and the clowns appear no less than 5 times in the program. Last act of the show is the long elephant mount, directed by Fred Logan.

Recently I received an excellent program of the United Methodist Church Circus, headed up by Rev. Tom Bracewell, and which featured so many of the cristiani family, plus Emmett Kelly, Sr. It also featured magic and other fine performers. Unfortunately the show is gone.

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## From Britain

### THE BRITISH CIRCUS SEASON - 1979

... by Jack Niblett

The British Circus Season for 1979 got off to a rather shaky start. Bad weather which had already plagued the winter shows persisted, damaging equipment and cutting attendances.

Sally Chipperfield's Circus, in its second season, had a bad opening week with heavy snows flattening their big top at Great Malvern, and two weeks later in early April at Worcester, strong winds completely destroyed the same tent. Sally's husband traveled to Belgium and secured a handsome new blue canvas two-pole top from Circus Mikkenie and the show has since resumed its tour of the West Midlands.

Gerry Cottle, whom last year ran two circuses and also sent circus units to the Middle East and to Iceland, has run into serious financial difficulties, with debts amounting to nearly \$400,000. However, his creditors have allowed him to go out again this summer, with one show only and that a somewhat smaller edition of his show, with the hopes of reclaiming some of their money.

Davey's International, a new circus which had a run of only three weeks last season, has re-formed, and is out again. Even Davey did not escape the vagaries of the weather, and heavy rains which had softened one of his grounds, caused the collapse of a section of his seating, fortunately with no serious results.

The familiar British family circuses are all out again - Sir Robert Fossett's, James Bros., Robert Bros., Hoffman and the Austen Brothers, all with good traditional programs.

The original Chipperfield's Circus has not yet begun its tenting tour, but I understand that this long-established circus will be having a shorter season this year, with some long stands at seaside resorts.

However, there is yet another Chipperfield Circus on our roads this summer. Jimmy, the originator of the

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Safari Parks, has taken out a circus, entitled Jimmy Chipperfield's Circus World. This is quite a large show with ten elephants and plenty of wild and domestic beasts. With him are daughters Mary and Margaret; Mary will be showing some of her animal acts at the Blackpool Tower Circus later on this year, and her place in the Circus World's big cage will then be taken by Carl Fischer, Jr. Jimmy plans to tent with this show 'til early summer, then he will take the show indoors for the Great Yarmouth Hippodrome Circus season; when that summer season is over Jimmy will resume tenting again until Autumn.

There are several very small family shows out again. Gandy's International; Fossett Bros.; Circus Apollo; Weight's Circus and a few more, playing villages and small towns.

Biggest disappointment of all has been the cancellation of the long-awaited return of the Billy Smart Circus with its proposed summer season at Battersea Park, London. This distinguished circus which has been off the road since 1971, but has kept its name and reputation before the public with specially recorded television circus shows, has been sadly missed by the profession and by the Fans. The disagreement amongst the Smart brothers now means that English circus-goers will now be denied the chance of seeing several top-line American acts already booked for the show. The big top will go up, however, at the winter quarters at Winkfield, Windsor, for tele-recordings of two circus-variety shows, and the usual Christmas and Easter television show.

I wish to thank all of my friends for their cards, letters, prayers and good wishes during my recent hospitalization.

A special thank you to Tommy Bentley and Chuck Clancy for their assistance in my time of need.

Please note a change of address:

JIM PARKER  
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P. O. Box 611  
237 South Tustin Avenue  
Orange, California - 92666

**HAL HAVILAND SEZ . . . .**

JERRY BANGS was the greatest circus clown who never wore makeup. His laugh-provoking gags are still unequalled. Because of his modesty, many considered Jerry merely a prop man or builder. However, those of us who knew him well realized that his personal supervision of his own carefully contrived comedy gadgets, worked by other clowns, was indeed the best clown teamwork of all times, reaching as it did the full laugh potential of any circus audience.

Jerry started sans make-up after a dress rehearsal of the Ringling tent show in Sarasota. He was a 1st of May white-face clown working under the direction of Pat Valdo. But, even at that time, most of the big clown props, on the Big Show, had been built by Jerry. And as usual, the last clown walkaround consisted mainly of coverup gags. So Jerry had come up with a good one for himself. A derby hat atop his cover-up costume had a little trap door in front of the crown, just above the brim. Like a Black Forest cuckoo clock everytime a string was pulled a small rubber canary bird popped out as a noise maker simultaneously sounded "cuckoo"!

A dress rehearsal must be a serious matter for executive brass on any show. This year Mr. Ringling stood in the back door inspecting all, flanked by Pat Valdo and other staff members. Young Jerry Bangs was en-

joying his new clown walkaround creation to the hilt. As he circled the track, the "cuckoo" bird popped out, all too closely sometimes, into the faces of front seat viewers at regular stops around the hippodrome. And as a final shot, going out the back door, the "cuckoo" bird popped out into the face of Mr. Ringling!

As Jerry headed for the alley to pack, Mr. Ringling turned to Pat Valdo, his performance director. "I want that clown fired." Pat nodded. Final acts ended rehearsals. When it was over, Pat went to Jerry to break the news. Now, Pat realized that the show opened in a few days in Madison Square Garden. Jerry's big clown props were needed. So, Pat's great executive reserve came up with the answer.

"Jerry, that last walkaround, for you, is out. You need time to pack your gear. Also, you don't have time for make-up, work like a prop man and rig all the gags." Later, when tempers were not so short, the decision was explained and everybody, including Mr. Ringling, had a good laugh.

Jerry Bangs continued for more than a score of years with the Big One, plus a distinguished career with many smaller circuses long after that. He never wore make-up again. So, he was indeed the greatest circus clown, or specialized funster, who never wore make-up.

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