



5th Year

April 5, 1976

Number 14

## G-M Tour Underway

Opening for the first time on the east coast, the George Matthews Circus launched its 1976 tour at Parkersburg, W. Va., last week (April 1). The show is going to move quickly across the southern states towards California, where a series of May dates have been scheduled. After that they will head east once again.

General Manager Sid Kellner told CR that opening day crowds were good and there is every indication this will be one of the best tours ever undertaken by the big circus. All of our California dates, he added, will be played without sponsors. Instead we'll rely on a heavy campaign of newspaper, radio and TV advertising.

### Bulls Go To Church

Everyone thought Rev. Tom Mullally was crazy when he said elephants were breaking into his

(Continued on Page 12)

(Continued on Page 12)

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## From Here and....

Italo Fornasari's Musical Clowns have been signed for a 3 month extension by Circus Atayde.

Garden Bros. will play for the Shrine at West Orange, N.J., two weeks (mid-May) after the Pan American Circus plays there.

The Oscarians, Harry Thomas and Mike Martin are among those set to tour with Circus Galaxy, opening April 25th at Austin, Tex.

Bernie Kallman and Mike "Kosco" Naughton are busy working up new ideas and routines for popular clown gag numbers.

Midget Mike Padullo, of RBBB Red Unit, reportedly left the show, and as a result the Patriotic spec has no Ben Franklin.

Kenny Dodd, of Beatty-Cole is busy making costumes for the big shows upcoming opening date.

Duane Thorpe's new baby in RBBB Red Unit opening number is Jimmy "cute as a button" Briscoe.

## FOR SALE

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Sells & Gray Circus  
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Phone: (305) 645-2221

## In Memoriam

CHARLES J. MAHON (62) retired circus performer, died on Jan. 8 at Phoenix, Ariz. He got his start on the Atterbury Circus in the '30s, joined the Mamy Butters tightwire act and toured on Downie, Beatty and Cole Bros. Survivors include his widow, Marie and five children: Mary, Monica, Pat, Charlie, and Frank.

NIO NEUBERGER (63) a circus performer for 35 years. Was with Ringling-Barnum 1936-1941 and was billed as the only woman in the world to do a somersault on a tightwire. She was born in China and started performing at 6 years of age. She retired from performing in 1954.

VICTOR H. SCHAWEL (75) retired circus and carnival worker. Survivors include a son, Charles and a sister Lois Sapp.

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## Vacation Tour

"Have just returned from a week's vacation with the Big John Strong Circus and I had a wonderful time," reports Bill Schreiber. "I did a little of everything and like that old circus term, generally made myself useful."

Business for the week was great. The two days at Oceanside were really something. The local TV station did a news feature on the show's arrival and this just added to the public's interest. Ventura and Oxnard were good, with business at Oxnard well over that of the past few years. Attendance at Newbury Park was down, probably to poor advance advertising and a small ticket sale.

The engagement for South-Central Los Angeles had the show on a lot in the middle of an all black area and there was a lot of tension all day long. A near riot developed during the first show and the promised police protection never appeared.

Kids obviously tried to get more than their share of everything and at least one kid was caught in an attempt to steal a wallet. Just about the time you figured everyone here was an ill-mannered brat someone would come up and tell you how much they enjoyed the circus or a particular act, but they were in the minority.

## PEOPLE

RAY (Talla) SMITH is recovering from a heart operation. You can send him cards or letters at: 1553 California St., San Francisco, Calif. - 94109.

THE BARRY FAMILY will appear on the Bozo TV Show from Chicago on April 7 and 8.

BOB and VI HOFMEISTER have a 40 ft. aluminum van for their Apaloosa stallions, for their '76 tour with Beatty-Cole.

HAL HAVILAND recently closed with Circus Vargas and now presents his animals on the Stebbing Circus.

ANTHONY FAGUNDA, of Clyde Bros. Circus, was recently featured in an AP wirephoto which showed an elephant scratching his back.

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The following day at Paxton, in San Fernando Valley, was a good spot and seemed like a picnic compared to the previous day. It was a welcome relief and I was sorry it had to be the last day of my vacation tour.

# BILLY BARTON....



BELIEVE IT OR NOT Cincinnati saw the Unbelievable, the friendly meeting of two rival circus producers - Fleckles and Hanneford. Not on YOUR life would I vouch for what each was thinking, but to all outward appearances everything was peachy-creamy! It would be nice if a meeting like this triggered a chain-reaction among other producers but that's a bit much to hope for. Honest competition is healthy but these tiresome skirmishes, year in and year out, end up benefiting NOBODY!

DOWN RUMOR ROAD...That IAN GARDEN will field two units in 77 ....That PAUL KAYE's Cont'l will play Lion Country Safari in L.A. for two weeks over Easter - also that he will take his show to Japan after a stint in the Islands. ...That Carson & Barnes makes its first foray into Eastern territory hitting such major promo stands as Baltimore....That the Fall of '76 will see the switching of producers on several Shrine biggies....That a certain well known wild animal trainer plans to produce his own dates in 1978.

ROCK-SMITH FLYERS have a portable video-tape machine. Taped shots of their new cannon act were viewed in Cincinnati - a clever idea....WILL HUTCHINS, gaining strong recognition on TV cloned on RUDY BROS. in earlier years, but was an actor before that....Due to poor health CLIFF HENRY is retired in California. IVAN HENRY is his son.

RUDY JACOBI produced the BUGS BUNNY show for a string of towns in Ventura County - started Mar. 22. And TOMMY BENTLEY is

in Cincinnati opening the promotion for RUDY's July outdoor circus date. "We are only playing a few spots with the circus," says Tommy. "there are so many circuses around they are getting harder to sell. The Bugs Bunny show is a better format for us."

PARLEY BAER played the "ring master" on TV's "Streets of San Francisco" circus segment and was splendid. The cigarette "warning" commercial featuring DAVE HOOVER and a lion is really terrific. Congratulations, Dave...Happy Birthday MARAN BURCH, another Aries...

JEANNIE HALL was felled by flu in Minneapolis so sister CARMEN took over the cooking chores. I wouldn't say the results were less than gastronomical, but I'm told that a certain Baboon refused even a smidgen and gave CARMEN

(Continued on Page 13)

COMMERCIAL ART WORK Envelopes, letterheads, cards, etc. - Write to: Beverly Allen, P.O. Box 91, Pixley, Ca. 93256.

Phone: (209) 757-3501

# 'twas a great show

.....by DON SANDMAN

Took three youngsters to the Shrine Circus here in Cincinnati and they seemed to enjoy virtually everything. I think both the kids and adults will agree this was one of the finest shows the Shrine has sponsored. All of the specs and numbers were nicely presented and not overdone. However, there seemed to be just a bit too much going on at one time in the big Razzle Dazzle number.

A real feature was Tajana's tiger act in the center ring. She entered the arena astride two white horses and at the end of the act left on an elephant with a black panther, a number the audience really loved.

When asked what they liked best about the circus, the 3 yr. old said "the elephants and tigers." The 7 yr. old liked "all the animals" and the 9 yr. old liked "everything."

The adults seemed to enjoy the "Planet of the Apes", the "Space Odyssey" and "This Is Our Country" numbers more than the children. The number "Salute To Hollywood" was something that was cheered by everyone, and the youngsters certainly liked aerial star Marina.

"All in all it was a great show and the best the Syrian Shrine has offered in many years."

## PEOPLE

RON and ROXANA WHITFIELD are working a five elephant act and will soon have an act with 10 male lions and a male tiger at California's Marine World/Africa USA.

## Show Notes

A capacity crowd filled the Circus Vargas big top for an 8 p.m. show at Brownsville (Tex) on March 19th. However, gusty winds kept the side show banners down all day and generally made it an unpleasant day.

Kay Parker was selling general admission tickets, and owner Cliff Vargas handled the announcing chores, complete with a top hat and tails. All acts were well received, with the Vashek Duo bringing down the house. Arturo Segura took a spill, but shook it off and finished up his bounding rope number.

The performance, including the intermission, ran two and a half hours.

..... Tim Davis

## CIRCUS PHOTOS

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## Plea Won

The first round in an effort to prevent the registration of RBBB's "Circus World" title has been won in a patent fight by the Wisconsin State Historical Society. The U. S. Patent Office and Appeal Board said the Florida park's title could cause confusion with Circus World Museum at Baraboo and therefore denied Ringling's registration application.

Attorney Allan W. Leiser, who represented the Historical Society said the Society felt the title "Circus World" (in Florida) would make people assume there was a connection with Circus World Museum in Baraboo.

The Patent Appeals Board has not yet heard the Society's objections to registration of a second title "Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus World." A decision on that is not expected until late next year.

## Turkish Bath

Early one morning during the Shrine Circus engagement at Cincinnati, a bored elephant pulled a steam pipe from the ceiling of the Cincinnati Gardens, flooding the animal area with hot water.

Animal men searched frantically for a building janitor to cut off the cascading water. By the time they located him the area looked like a disaster scene

## FOR SALE

FIRST OF MAY CLEARANCE SALE

- National Geographic Magazine
  - March 1972 - \$2.00
  - March 1948 - \$3.00
  - Aug. 1940 - \$5.00 (chimps)
  - Sep. 1954 - \$3.00 (fair)
- Conoco Magazine # 2 - story of the 101 Ranch Show - \$2.00
- Circus Ideals - \$3.00 - (No cover on this copy)
- Sheet Music - 22 dif. marches Circus, rags, etc - \$30.00
- Popular Mechanics June 1936 - "Laugh Makers" lots of old clown routines - \$5.00
- Midway Magic and Midway Showman by Don Boles - \$2.00 ea.
- Lets Go to The Circus - an L. P. album for kids - \$3.00
- Iron Jaw mouthpiece once used by Adele Nelson - \$10.00
- Book Ends - set of metal(brass) very rare \$25.00; Set of plaster \$7.50 - elephants with trunks down.
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# ROUTES

## Confusion

## Fair Circus

American Cont'l Circus  
Apr. 5-7 Santa Ana, Calif.

Beatty-Cole Circus  
Apr. 5 Brunswick, Ga.  
6 Statesboro  
7 Macon  
8 Athens  
9 Anderson, S.C.  
10 Greenwood  
11 Fort Gordon

Carden-Johnson Circus  
Apr 10-11 Muskogee, Okla.

Hubert Castle Circus  
Apr 6-11 Sioux City, Iowa

Circus Kingdom  
Apr 6 Washington, DC  
10 Williamsburg, Va

Circus Vargas  
Apr 8-13 West Covina, Ca.

Clyde Bros. Circus  
Apr 8-11 Fargo, N.D.

Cole All Star TV Circus  
Apr 5 Canton, N.Y.  
6 Heuvelton  
7 Brasher Falls  
8 Massena  
9 Lowville  
-- End of Tour --

Garden Bros. Circus  
Apr 9-11 Hamilton, Ont.

George Matthews Circus  
Apr 1 Parkersburg, W.Va  
2-3 St. Albans  
4-5 Huntington  
6 Russell, Kty  
8-11 Lexington

Tommy Hanneford Circus  
Apr 1-2 Farmingdale, L.I  
3-4 Fort Dicks, N.J.

Happytime Circus  
Apr 8-11 Santa Rosa, Cal.

Holiday Hippodrome  
Apr 5 Hubbard, Ohio  
6 Lorain  
7 Sandusky  
8 Marion  
9 Lima  
10 Findley  
11 Toledo

Some confusion has naturally resulted from recent news reports from Cleveland.

As is the case in most organizations the Al Sirat has two factions. One wants the circus early in the year while the other wants it to be held in October.

This year the Grotto is having two circuses. The one in January was produced by Tommy Hanneford, while the October circus will be produced by Paul V. Kaye.

Starting in 1977 the circus is to be held in October of each year and next year's show will be produced by Tommy Hanneford.

The Ohio State Fair Circus, produced by Bob Kaltenbach, of Klein's Attractions will offer regular performances at the Fair Aug. 26 to Sept. 6th. Advance reports indicate two performances will be presented on weekdays, with three shows on weekends.

The circus, a free fair attraction, will be presented under a huge canvas big top. The circus was a regular feature of the fair for several years and is being brought back by popular demand.



### - PLEASE NOTE -

\* ALL CIRCUS PRODUCERS - SHRINE - AGENTS \*

### Col. E. T. Bale's

Royal Continental Liberty Performing Stallions is now booked with the R.B.B.B. Circus World.

The Bale Sisters are on tour with the Holiday With Horses Show for the season.

For all Information Contact Col. T. Bale  
RBBB Circus World, P.O. Box 2006, Haines City, Fla. 33844

Hubler Int'l Circus  
Apr 7 Garden City, Kans  
9-10 Dodge City

Kaye Cont'l Circus  
Apr 9-11 Terre Haute, Ind

King Bros. Circus  
Apr 5 Auburndale, Fla.  
6 Tarpon Springs  
7 Lutz  
8 Arcadia  
9 Cape Coral  
10 Boca Raton  
11 Lake Worth

Mid-America Circus  
Apr 5 Tyler, Texas  
6 Jacksonville  
7 Palestine  
8 Crockett  
9 Huntsville  
10-11 College Station

Royal Ranch (Continued)  
9 Abbeville, S.C.  
10 Washington, Ga.

Stebbing's Royal European  
Apr 5-10 Palatka, Fla.

John Strong Circus  
Apr 5 Coalinga, Calif.  
6 Huron  
7 Armona  
8 Chowchilla  
9-10 Fresno  
11 Patterson

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus  
Apr 2-7 Chattanooga, Ten  
9-14 Knoxville

.... OTHER ROUTES ....

American Freedom Train  
Apr 13-15 Little Rock, Ark  
16-21 Memphis, Tenn.

Hoxie Bros. Circus  
Apr 5 Elgin AFB, Fla  
6 Enterprise, Ala.  
7 Dothan  
8 Daleville  
9 Albany, Ga.  
10 Tifton

Hoxie's Great American Cir.  
Apr. 5 Baxley, Ga.  
6 Hazlehurst  
7 Cochran  
8 Montezuma  
9 Cuthbert  
10 Blakely

Polack Bros. Circus  
Apr.8-11 Los Angeles, Cal.  
Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit  
to May 31 New York, N.Y.  
Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
Apr 6-25 Washington, DC

Roberts Bros. Circus  
Apr 5 Hillboro, W.Va.  
6 Dublin  
7 Franklin  
Royal Ranch Wild West  
Apr 5 Rightsville, Ga.  
6 Davisboro  
7 Gibson

Royal Lipizzan Stallions  
Apr 6 Springfield, Ill  
8 Indiana State Fr  
10 Landover, Md.

Royal Lipizzan Show  
to Apr. 18 Rio de Janeiro

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\$ 15,000

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**Dailey Bros.**

.....by M. L. DUPONT

This reporter drove 120 miles to visit the Dailey Bros. Circus at Jonesboro (La.) on March 21st. Although the show is called Dailey Bros., the window cards have the title as "Al G. Clark & Dailey Bros. Circus." The show's dates are written on the card with grease pencil.

The weather was excellent and the fairgrounds lot was in pretty good shape, except there were wet spots near the entrance and along the backside of the big top.

All the rolling equipment is in excellent shape and most of it is painted red and white. None of the equipment, except for the concession trailer, has the show title. Not even the ticket trailer, which acts as a marquee, with fencing that leads to the big top is lettered.

The midway looks circusy. On the left side are two big semis with a banner between them for the front of the two pole menagerie top. Two light poles, with four lights each, are used to light the midway. There are three or four concession (carnival) joints on the right side.

The big top shows definite signs of wear, has three rings, with five rows high of bleachers on the front side. A short section of seats is on the opposite side and there's one section at the far end. At the entrance is a cotton candy stand and an auto from a local dealer.

Most of the acts are presented one at a time and the program includes: Gloria Null on web,

ladder, trapeze and juggling; the Strong Family do a whip and rope spinning acts; two elephants (who work twice) - Tommie and Sue; a goat act; and a Baboon that rides a camel. Featured clowns included the Null boy, Bea and Art Stone and your reporter.

A special arrangement had been made with the sponsors for a performance, so the afternoon show was jammed packed with a nice friendly crowd. They even were enthusiastic about the peanut pitch and other concession features.

During intermission Sue is used for elephant rides at one end of the tent. Tommie can be fed at the other end and he also does an ad bit. Music for the big show is by organ, featuring Peggy Null.

They are carrying a steel arena and report that four lions are being broken to an act for the program. They also carry two light plants. One is on the forward portion of the pole truck, while the main unit is stationed on the midway. The cookhouse unit serves as a sleeper, cookhouse and tear-down pie wagon.



# CASTLE SHOW

The program presented by the Hubert Castle Circus, for the El Kazif Shrine Temple (Mar. 18-21) at Spokane, Wash., featured:-

Joe Hartman - wild animals  
 The slide for life  
 Raija Trio, Cycling Wizards and  
 The Doris Trio - cycles  
 Bucko - An independent mule  
 Karl's Poodles  
 Elizabeth, Cello, Carry, Wendy -  
 aerialists  
 Marhal Camels and Llamas  
 Charmaine's Pets  
 JoAnn - trained dogs  
 The Rianos and The Torreanis -  
 tightwire acts  
 The Dubickis, The Bisbinis and  
 Sarazochil - balancing acts  
 Pinson's Circus elephants  
 The Rodriguez - horizontal bars  
 The Robertos - flex-pole  
 The Vickinas - risley/acrobatics  
 The Lalos - rola bola  
 The Perrys and Oresto - juggling  
 Hall's Jungle Wonders  
 Miamba's Baboons  
 Wilson's Pets  
 The Galambos - aerialists  
 The Tabaks - revolving perch  
 The Aguilar and The Martinez  
 Trio - balance pole  
 The Amazing Winns - high wire  
 Al Dawley - ringmaster  
 Pablo Martinez - prop supt.  
 Gene Randow - producing clown  
 Clement E. Toca - band leader  
 Merle Gilbert - electrician

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MIKE NAUGHTON contributes the material under the heading of "From Here And..." found on another page of today's issue.



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**BULLS AT CHURCH** (Continued)

church at Jeanerette, La. (March 24) and his calls for aid went almost unheeded. It was even difficult to convince the police that he wasn't kidding.

Three elephants from Fisher Bros. Circus shattered windows at the rectory and then thrust their trunks inside to sniff and grope about. They finally contended themselves by dragging out cans of paint and trampling them.

One priest said the elephants crushed the cans like pancakes, spattering paint everywhere. Two, he added, went across the street and ate some bushes.

The police arrived about the same time as the elephant trainer. Two of the animals were quickly secured, while the third protested but was finally led away. The circus promised to pay for all the damage.

"It was a most unusual morning," said the priest with a sigh.

**SHOW VISITORS**

Among the many visitors back stage at the Cincinnati Shrine Circus (Mar. 15-21) were: Tarzan and Jackie Zerbini, The Canestrellis, Eddie Zacchini, L.N. Fleckles, Tim Alexander (of Lion Country Safari, L.A.), Marqueen Schlarbaum, Margaret McLean, The Harneys, Happy and Karen Davis, Bob McNea, Brenda Jones, Tommy Bentley, Gunnar Amandis, Carl Looper, Rock-Smith Flyers, the local CFA group and numerous personal friends of Johnny Zoppe, Jr., Bob Gibbs and Charles Schlarbaum.

**G-M SHOW** (Continued)

The show will continue to use the same orange and white big top, which is equipped with seat wagons. A full band has been engaged to back the performance which features a variety of regular and new acts. Ed Russell is serving as ringmaster.

In all a tour of some 35 weeks is anticipated, with a brief lay-off between the spring and fall tour. All equipment has been newly painted (red and white) and early reports indicate the show looks "good and impressive" on the lot.

**WANT** Material and photos of Tom Mix and his life in films, with wild west shows and the circus.

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You will make more money with this show than you ever thought possible in magic.

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## LETTERS

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.... John Lewis

I get more news better and faster via Circus Report than any other publication. Here's some extra money to help pay postage.

..... Guy R. Krause

Sure like that Fay Alexander story. Keep up the good work.

.... Paul Wessler



Everyone's reading Circus Report these days. Order your own copy and keep up on the news. It's \$12.00 for the year.

Write: Don Marcks, 525 Oak St.,  
El Cerrito, Cal. 94530

## A BIG ONE

A successful engagement here at Lancaster (Cal.) late last year by the Big John Strong Circus, was repeated on March 22nd of this year. With no telephone solicitation and no paid advertising, the circus played to three packed houses, with turn-away crowds at each show, during its one day stand.

The project was arranged by Dr. Geo. T. W. Boyd, now residing in Lancaster, whom John Strong introduced at ringside as "An Old Time Circus Trooper, Whose Age Is a Military Secret."

An added attraction this year, at Lancaster, was the side show produced by John Strong, Jr. It graced the midway with a new tent and attractive banners, and the exhibits were spectacular. It is truly a modern version of the popular old-time side shows.

Also introduced at ringside was Warren Harwood, Area Deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor, Baxter Ward. Harwood is a candidate for the California Assembly, who selected personalities of the circus for unusual awards. The highest points for capabilities of individuals, not given publicity for public service in the entertainment world were, Top Honors to Winnie McKay. Others included Chris DeWayne, Betty and Heidi Wendany.

.... Dr. Geo. W. T. Boyd

**BILLY BARTON (Continued)**

a definite "Jack Benny" look of disgust!

HOXIE BROS. is using an impressive four-page tabloid size newspaper herald. Working the lier act on Hoxie is MICHAEL CECERE... STU MILLER's "Wonderful World of Magic" begins its tour May 5 at Allentown, Pa. and will tour Canada.....PHILIP MORRIS is going out with "Spirit of 76".

NIO NEWBERGER passed away in Miami. Ringling brought her to the U.S. in '36, billed her as the only woman doing a somersault on a tight wire. She was born in Tien Tfin, China.....TIM ALEXANDER of Lion Country Safari flew in from the west coast to catch the Cincy Shrine date....Also visiting was EDDIE ZACCHINI.

JIMMY HALL is still hospital-bound....PAM ROSAIRE's cage act made the Don Francisco Miami date ....EDDY VENTURA was in Steubenville for Hubler who had a Buffalo date running simultaneously..... TONY FOSSETT was also there and then went to Columbus for Castle who had his other unit running elsewhere....OSCARIANS joined a circus in Texas - they do an excellent Risley Act, well costumed and well-paced....LOS LATINOS make the Milwaukee Summerfest for Fleckles and ZOPPE's Space Odyssey will be seen in Nashville for Zacchini.

Seen working concessions in Cincinnati were RED BENTLEY (Tommy's brother) and BUZZY CUTTIN.

Wife BRENDA was giving pointers to JULIE VENTURA who was doing web....PETE CRISTIANI to be concession boss on Carson & Barnes.. ...JOHNNY HERRIOTT, after fathering five daughters, finally has a grandson which is ALL he can talk about!

Welcome CARL LOOPER to the CR Family. He's the PE Instructor at BSU in Muncie (Ind) and formed the Hamilton Mini Circus patterned after the famed Sailor Circus in Sarasota....Ex-flyer MILLIE WARD was seen at HAROLD HALL's looking marvelous and very chipper after her recent operation. Millie worked for BARRY ASHTON for years in Las Vegas.

SID KELLNER has booked a South American flying act from Simone Finner for his spring tour which, incidentally, will only run six weeks. His fall tour, beginning in August will be a long one - a format that's always been successful for Sid in the past.

Enjoyed meeting the HARNEY'S - Sheila and Dale, illusionists with Castle. This is their second  
(Continued on Page 15)

**WANTED**

Need Bear Cubs

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# Good Old Days

.....by ERIC WILSON

Memorabilia of fifty years as Ringling-Barnum bandmaster tastefully are displayed in the Sarasota, Fla. home of Merle and Nina Evans.

On a Sunday afternoon, the Evans showed items ranging from a complete set of RBBB programs and route books to an elaborate gold leaf scrolled carving from a parade wagon's corner.



Merle, who joined in 1919 and retired from the show in 1969, showed seven of his colorful uniforms, all different, and his rare small horn, one of only three in the world.

Statuette trophies and plaques total about ten, several oil portraits of Merle are hung and framed photos are on all the walls. In one corner is the red trunk which Merle used on all tours. He figures his mileage with the show exceeded 800,000.

Other items include many circus books, a roster of circus bandmasters since 1872 and some ancient route books and couriers and heralds dating back nearly 100 years. Nina says her husband has the characteristics of a pack rat!

Although he no longer is associated with a circus, Merle and Nina travel by car many hundreds of miles on dates as conductor of bands in cities, col-

leges and schools. They leave on April 18th for a trip of six weeks.

Merle's fabulous memory for towns, lots and people is astonishing. For example he recalls a city lot in Iowa because a tall old factory chimney stood across from it. The chimney is still there, but the lot, last used by RBBB in 1952, is now built up.

The Evans love to recall the "under canvas" days. Nina was secretary to John Ringling North and her lively conversation about the show is fascinating.

Merle regrets that few show bands now play traditional circus music. In fact, he doesn't see how some of the acts are "cued in" properly with the modern popular style of music, many of the pieces from musical comedy shows.

The Evans are proud of Merle's 1976 election to the Circus Hall of Fame in Sarasota.

Retirement for the old maestro of the big top has not lessened Merle's enthusiasm for his band work. He conducts with all his old time skilled musicianship and still blows a mellow horn.

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

season with Hubert and their FIRST circus experience. Dale is a TV celeb in Western Canada, his show from Edmonton, was taped weeks in advance before the Castle tour started.....Another TV personality BOB "Oopsy the Clown" McNEA, lives in Canada, but his show airs out of Detroit. He visited his daughter CATHY in Cincinnati where she was performing.

SIGNOR RAI is now doing an illusion with a disappearing panther....Letter from the SPARTON Family stirs old memories. ORLO has been a shut-in, caused by a broken back, since 1972. His address is: 8111 E. Garvey Blvd., Space 5, Rosemead, Calif. 91770.

MARQUEEN SCHLARBAUM visited TEX and MARCEY MAYNARD on the Miami Shrine date. She tells me that GAYLORD MAYNARD will tour on TEX MAYNARD, JR. BICENTENNIAL - a Musical Horse Show. One number involves Indian dances, covered wa-

gons and square dancing on horseback. Finale features Gaylord as the Rhinestone Cowboy. KEITH KILLINGER is musical director with TEX MAYNARD on drums. DAVID LAUGHTON is vocalist. Preview shows will be presented in Sarasota April 31 for Arena Managers.

BETTY ESCALANTE had a birthday party for husband Phil (there was only ONE candle on the cake!) Partying were the Acevedo Family, scads of Escalantes, including Chata and Esther; Irene Dart - last seen on a "MAUDE" segment; Tommy Bentley, Harold Hall, high wire performer Eduardo Juarez, and CFA clown Jim Parker.

DON BASHMAN has purchased so many "unused" Greyhound bus tickets that PETER HAUBNER was inspired to crack: "He's bought enough to have his own Greyhound bus!"

Don't forget the Fabulous MAE WEST appears on the DICK CAVETT special tonight!

See you down the road, luvs.


# AMANDIS ENTERTAINMENT AGENCY

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The Story of .....  
FAY ALEXANDER  
by  
Billy Barton

Chapter Three

"Get Me To The Church on Time"

1948 FOUND FAY BACK in California, the Central America adventure unhappily behind him. He got a call from Ted DeWayne. "How'd you like to do a season with me on the Beatty show?"

"Do they pay in American money?"

Ted laughed. "Every week."

"You're on."

Fay went into rehearsal with the DeWayne Troupe, doing teeterboard and risley, and they opened with the Clyde Beatty Circus which played L.A. for four weeks and around the area for at least six more.

"Harold Voise had the flying act - a double-wide, the first I had ever seen. Bob Porter, Eileen, Harold and Jack Voise; Harold Norris and a girl named Christine who later married Hank Monzello were in it. Bob Porter left, and Bill Snyder from our act took his place as one of their catchers. And, me, I was just itching to get up on that rigging."

The itch was scratched when the Voise troupe, for reasons Fay can no longer remember, blew in mid-season.

Ted DeWayne went to see Clyde Beatty. "We've got a flying rigging," he informed Clyde.

"Well, for God's sake send for it."

Ted called the coast and the rigging was trucked in. With a company including Bill as catcher, Donny Johnson, Fay, Hank and Christine Monzello as leapers, the Flying DeWaynes finished out the Beatty season.

It was during the Beatty tour that Fay met Rose Lamont, a trick rider with Billy Hammond's Wild West Concert.

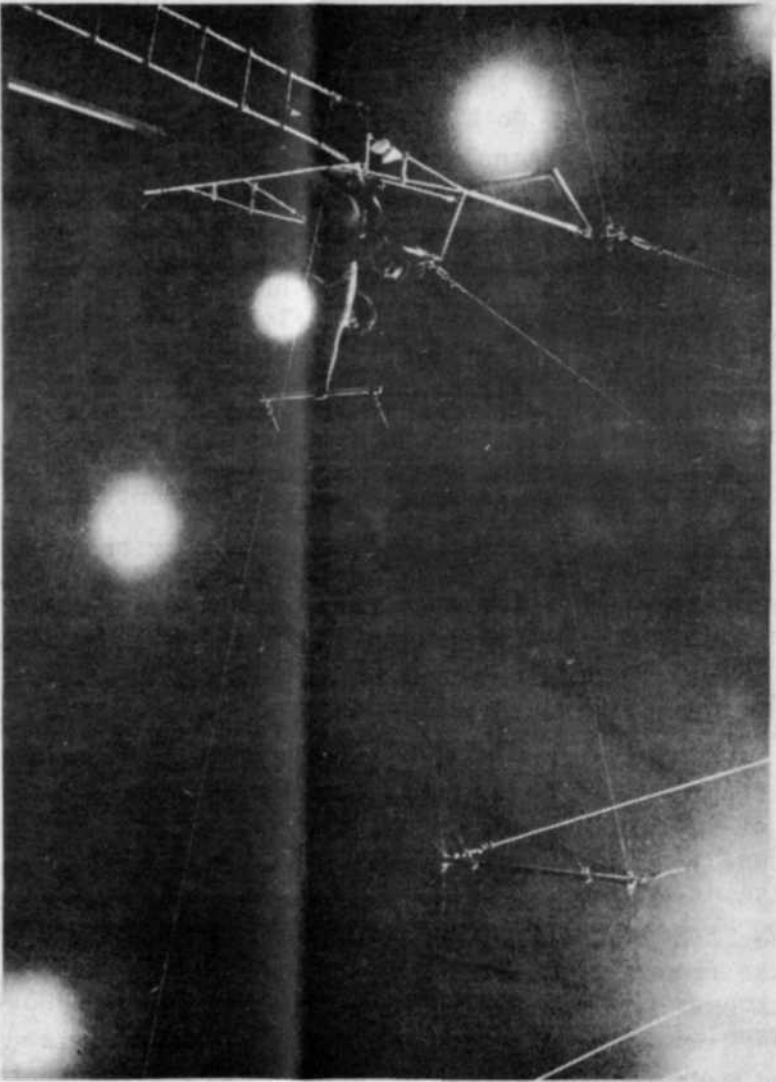
"They broke me in for web and ladder, and I learned to ride menage," Rosie laughs. "I was a cute little trick in those days!"

They spent all their free time together. One day Fay marched up to Rosie who was sitting on a bale of hay and announced: "Rosie, we're getting married."

"I was surprised as hell," she said, "but I didn't show it. I just said 'Okay!' and we continued to go out just like we did before. Every night a gang of us would go somewhere."

The Clyde Beatty Circus was playing Vallejo for a three day stand. Early one morning Fay woke Rosie. "Come on, let's go get our blood tests. You know, this takes a lot of time and we'd better do

(Continued on Page 3)



Fay is shown here helping Gina  
Lolabridgia in the film Trapeze

it now."

So, that morning in Vallejo they took their blood tests. And just before 5 p.m., Mel Rennick, Gee Gee Powell and Rosie were at the license bureau convincing the clerk that Fay would be there any minute.

They had arrived earlier than Fay because the teeterboard act was next to closing in the program "I think Gee Gee and Mel would have forced that little man to stay open," Rosie said.

Seconds before the office closed Fay rushed in fumbling with his clothes. Ted DeWayne and Bill Snyder were behind him, Ted carrying Fay's teeterboard costume.

"We dressed him in the cab," Bill explained.

The license was signed and the group left for the church.

"We got married in the back of it," Rosie smiled. "Didn't matter if we got married on the steps!"

They honeymooned at a local motel and missed the night show. "We fell asleep," Rosie giggled.

When the Beatty show closed Fay wrote to Art Concello hoping to get placed on the Ringling show the following season in one of Art's flying acts. At that time, Art had all the flying acts on the show and was the show's manager. He remembered Fay as a competent acrobat.

# Beatty Circus

"THE CIRCUS ON PARADE"

MRS. HARRIETT BEATTY

Presenting two of the Jungles' fiercest enemies  
The TIGER Riding the ELEPHANT.

Muscle Grinds

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CLOWNS' WALK

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Greatest Balancing Act

HORSES

John Clipp

ELEPHANTS

Miss GeeGee Engesse

THE FLYING HAROLDS

Rolly-Polly

GLOOM CHASING CLOWNS  
HANNEFORD RIDING ACT

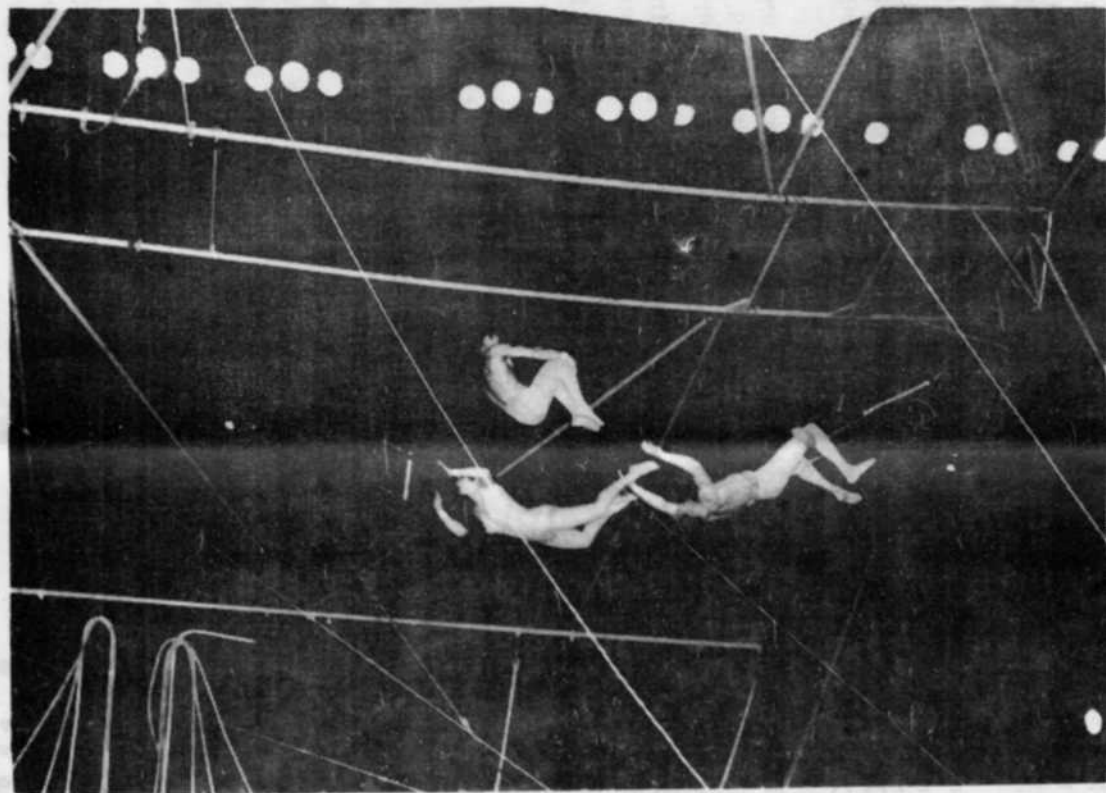
"Any good acrobat can fly," Art said, shifting the cigar in his mouth.

So Art wrote Fay to come on and in 1949 Fay and Rosie took a train to Sarasota and joined the Ringling show.

(To Be Continued Next Week)

Chapter Four

THE TRIPLE



The Flying Alexanders