



4th Year

October 6, 1975

Number 40

MURDER AT CIRCUS QUARTERS

An itinerant circus worker has been arrested and charged with the murder of two circus people at Donna, Texas. Officials are holding 32 year old Dennis K. Wright, who was captured at Alamo, on Highway 83, after a long chase through dark and muddy groves and farmland.

Janice Ratcliff (15) and Mrs. Emma Duke (66) were fatally shot about 12:45 a.m. on Sept. 7th, at the winterquarters of the Fisher Bros. Circus. Miss Ratcliff was shot once in the chest and died on the living room floor of the home she shared with Mrs. Duke. Death came to Mrs. Duke during surgery at nearby Knapp Methodist Hospital at 4 a.m. She had been shot three times.

N. Y. LAW

Strict laws with heavy fines for violations have been put into effect in New York State in regards to so-called "endangered animals." The only animals not on the state's "endangered" list are farm-type animals and dogs or cats.

(Continued on Page 13)

Police officials have declined to comment on a motive for the killings, but others living in the area attributed it to robbery. One source said it was believed that Mrs. Duke had some \$800 in the house.

Mrs. Duke had been a circus employee and handled a number of animals.

(Continued on Page 2)

Announc'g

The Post Office has informed us that all First Class Mail is now being moved by air and there is no longer a need for mail to be marked "Air Mail."

Air Mail postage stamps are being discontinued. All readers should receive their copy of Circus Report as per usual.

MICHIGAN DATE

After closing his summer date at the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Bobby Gibbs presented his "Circus World on Parade" show at Hillsdale, Mich., at the County Fair on Sept. 22-23.

Circus fans attending the show and giving Bobby an assisting hand were: Hayes Ganiard, Clarence Hastings, Gary and Kaye Schieman, Dave Reddy, Mary Wolcott, Bob and Judy Harris, and Harold and Mrs. Potter.

.... Clarence Hastings

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CIRCUS MURDER (Continued)

ber of jobs with the show. Her husband, Raymond, is a booking agent for the circus and was in Tennessee at the time of the tragedy.

Wright, who has thin red hair and a mustache, was wearing blue jeans and a T-shirt at the time of his arrest. Earlier this year he had worked with the show as a cook and was reportedly at the winterquarters preparing to rejoin the circus.

Police said it appeared the two women came from a bedroom and surprised the intruder and were shot. Both fell on the living room floor. A screen door in the back was cut, apparently where entry was made, while a spring on the front door was broken, apparently as the intruder fled.

The house where the shootings took place is in a quiet residential area that is dotted with citrus groves. The house is surrounded on three sides by trees and thick foliage and sets back some distance from the road.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each Monday by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Cal 94530.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$5.00 for 6 months; \$10.00 for a year.

ADVERTISING RATES: Minimum ad is \$2.50; Quarter Page \$5.00; Half Page \$10.00; Full Page \$20.00

A TOP STAR

The famous circus name of "Beatty" continues to be a top drawing attraction, as is evidenced by the solid bookings that are continually offered to Harriet Beatty and her lion act. Miss Beatty, who in real life is Mrs. Ed Say and the mother of three children, is the daughter of the late Harriet and Clyde Beatty.

The young Harriet developed her own lion act in 1961 and was soon being featured on TV, with animal shows and promotions, then she took to the road. The demand for her act continues to grow and, in her words, 1975 was her best season yet. Already she



HARRIET BEATTY

is making plans to tour with one of the country's major circuses in 1976.

Harriet's mother was a circus star in her own right and was featured with an elephant riding tiger act. Her step-father, the famous Clyde Beatty, was a star attraction on most of America's important circuses as well as being featured in his own circus.

Miss Beatty toured with her father's circus in the early 50's following her graduation from college and the death of her mother. Her father passed away in 1965.

After appearing with the George Hubler Circus, the Wallenda Circus and the Kaye Continental Circus this year, Miss Beatty is currently playing the Texas Shrine dates.

Ed Say, her husband, is a well-known showman. He handles all of Harriet's bookings, helps her with the act and takes care of the eight lions.

Their two oldest children - Sisie and Ed, Jr. - are both in the Navy, having enlisted together. The boy is at sea with the fleet and the daughter is one of the few Navy female jet plane mechanics. Their youngest son travels with them.

Harriet and her family make their home in West Palm Beach (Fla.)

ROUTES

Arabia Shrine Circus
to Oct 12 Houston, Tex.

Beatty-Cole Circus
Oct. 6 Pascagoula, Miss
7 Gulfport
8 Slidell, La.
9 Denham Springs
10 McComb, Miss.
11 Vicksburg
12 Greenwood

Hubert Castle Circus
Oct 1-5 El Paso, Texas

Circus Vargas
Oct 8-10 Newport News, Va
11-13 Norfolk

Clyde Bros. Circus
Oct 3-5 Toronto, Ont.

Diamond S. Rodeo
Oct. 3 Murray, Ky.

Dr. Pepper Circus
to Oct 18 Dallas, Texas

Hanneford Family Circus
Oct 7 Winnsboro, La
9-12 Monroe

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Oct 6 Danville, Va.
7 Eden, N.C.
8 Salisbury

Hoxie Bros. (Continued)
Oct. 9 Gastonia, N.C.
10 Spartanburg, S.C.
11 Traveler's Rest

King Bros. Circus
Oct. 6 Roswell, Ga.
7 Carrolton
8 Kennesaw

La Torre's Animals
Oct 10-19 Beaumont, Texas

Lewis Bros. Circus
Oct 3 Marshall, Va.
4 Luray

Panamericana Circus
Oct 8-14 Bronx, N.Y.

Polack Bros. Circus
Oct 9-12 Tampa, Fla.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Oct 8-19 Largo, Md.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
to Oct 27 Chicago, Ill.

Royal Hanneford Circus
Oct. 8 Waterloo, Ont.
9 London
11 Ottawa
12 Hamilton

John Strong Circus
Oct 7-8 Monterey, Calif.
12 Madera

.... OTHER ROUTES

American Freedom Train
Oct. 8 Salt Lake City, Utah

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
Oct 6-11 Cochran, Ga.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit
Oct 6-11 Meridian, Miss.

James H. Drew Shows
Oct 6-11 Monroe, Ga.

Foley & Burk Shows
Oct 7-19 Fresno, Calif.

Kramien's Magic Capades
Oct. 4 Hood River, Ore.

Magic of Manhattan Show
Oct 10 New York, N.Y.

Show Guests

Visitors on the G-M Circus during its final two weeks included:

Maryce Begary, aerialist and daughter Miss Bosco, juggler; Tommy Hanneford; Glenn Parkins; Burt and Marie Pettus and several members of the Royal Ranch Wild West Circus.



PEOPLE

HERBERT WEBER has his Los Latinos wire act booked into the Medinah Temple for Shrine Family Nights. He will also appear at the Onstage Night Club in Freeport, L.I. with his slide for life feature.

PRINCE NAJVEZ closed with the G-M Circus a day early to join TOMMY HANNEBORD's Royal Hanneford Circus at Kingston, N. Y. He will be with that show through November.

SID KELNER has booked his elephants on a string of indoor dates. Currently assisting in the act is LU ANN JACOBS, formerly with RBBB, and who did a single trapeze act on the G-M Circus this year.

BOBBY CLARK, magician, is planning to devote his time to the present interest in horoscopes and mental routine work.

YEARS AGO

Pittsfield, Mass. - June 14, 1924
Ringling-Barnum Circus

The Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey trains went through here this morning between 4 and 7 a.m. going from Springfield to Albany
Pittsfield, Mass. - July 20, 1924
Sells Floto Circus

The Sells Floto Circus went through here this morning about 8 a.m. going from Hartford to Albany.

CIRCUS VISITORS

Among those seen visiting the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus during its recent California engagements were:

Tom Upton, Jim Dandy, Don Marcks, Cecil Norris, Mike Swan, Pat Arieta, Harry Ellis and Popo the Clown,

Miscellaneous

Europorama is looking for ground acts and high acts for the show's 1976 season. Address mail to: 223 West Main St., Medford, Oregon - 97501.

The 1975 season is almost over. Read about the show's and what sort of a season they faced in upcoming issues of Circus Report. It's going to be a series you'll all enjoy reading.

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bldg. shrinks show

Reviewers throughout the New Orleans (La.) area agreed the new Super Dome was bigger than the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit which played there in September. The huge Super Dome, designed for ball games, was opened just a short time ago and RBBB was the first circus to set up inside the structure.

The seating area wasn't filled, reviewers said. There was trouble with the lights, the whole thing was very sterile and the Super Dome upstaged the circus.

Al Shea, of the West Bank Guide (Sep. 17) said:-

"Irvin Feld told the opening night audience 'We just didn't have a place large enough.' He does now and it could very well be his undoing. The vastness of the Super Dome tended to shrink the Greatest Show on Earth down to postage stamp size. Even the elephants looked tiny. The familiar rings which always seemed gigantic at the Municipal Auditorium and in tents looked about the size of those hoops you toss on rods in game booths at the beach. I counted 50 show girls parading about in beautiful glittery costumes. They were lost. They need a hundred more. The two circus parades drew very little audience reaction. It all seemed so far away, so little."

Continuing Shea added, "The first row of ground level seats seemed five blocks away from the action."

Lanny Thomas, of the States-Item (Sep. 12) said:-

Show's Guest

Visitors on the Carson & Barnes Circus lot at recent engagements in Georgia included:

Joe Bradbury, Paul Fitzpatrick, Ed Busch, John Cooper, Bob Brisendine, Bill and Lucille Lane.

Clowns Ed Busch and John Cooper worked in the show program during spec, clown gags and the come-in periods.

"While Petit's spectacular walk lived up to expectations, the circus did not - and it was not the fault of performers."

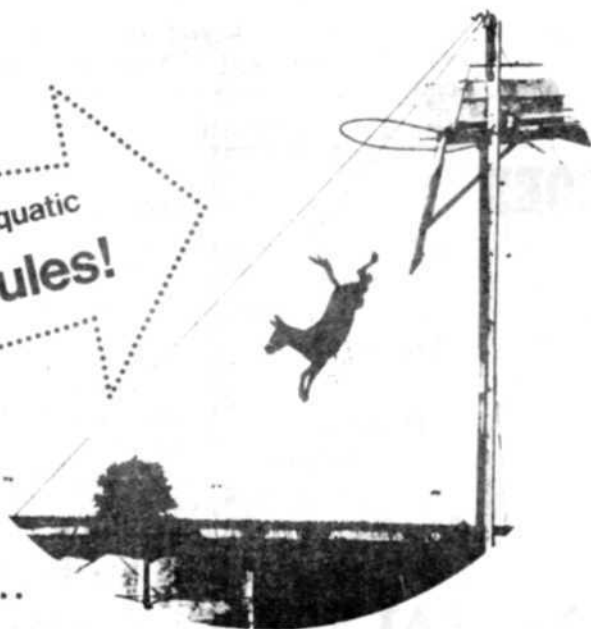
"The problem with the 104th edition of The Greatest Show on Earth is that it does not belong in the greatest building on earth, a description of the Superdome by Irvin Feld."

"The imposing Superdome overshadows the circus, reducing the performers to dwarfs and destroying the magic once generated under the Big Top - and still found in smaller auditoriums."

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A Visit To...

by ALLEN BABCOCK

It was a beautiful day and I had a nice visit with the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus at Bloomington (Ill.) on Sept. 13th. Between shows the flying act worked on their routines, while visitors on the lot included Norman Schuler and Tom Parkinson.

On Sept. 16th, the show played in Lincoln and it was pretty cloudy all day but it did not rain. Dave Hoover left the show to be with his seriously ill son, Gary, then on Sept. 18th Gary passed away, after suffering from a brain tumor.

A RECORD

Charlie Charles, cyclist at Circus Circus in Las Vegas, has recently completed the smallest bicycle in the world, which he rides in his act.

The bicycle, all hand-built by Charles, measures 6 inches in length. It is 4½ inches high and has a wheel diameter of 2 1/8 in and weighs just 2 lbs.

Visitors on the lot at the Lincoln engagement were Merle Pepper, Jim Moran, Bill and Eddie Backstein, Mike Sorrill and Charles Bellatti.

At both of the above dates the show pulled small afternoon crowds and about a half house at the night shows. Attendance here was less than what it had been last year.

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In Memoriam

MARJORIE SARAH WIRTH, wife of George Wirth, Jr. of the Australian circus family, died at Randwick, N.S.W. on April 15th.

The G-M Story - Season 1975 ...by BILLY BARTON

The cold-date format that worked so effectively in California and across the Western U.S. bogged down once the George Matthews Circus reached the East, where a variety of factors contributed to the show's abrupt closing in Mid-August at Rutland, Vt.

Intense heat plagued the circus in its route through Georgia and the Carolinas in June and early July -- months that most shows avoid this territory. Vacationing Easterners heading for shore or mountains blanked out weekend business as the show headed North and heavy rains everywhere - which hurt most shows - was especially hard on the G-M Circus playing without sponsors or promotions. Big dates like Roanoke and Fredericksburg (Va.) could not offset the drenching rains of four days in Richmond.

It was decided to switch the route. This threw the show on top of its bookings and advertising, creating hit and miss business, mostly accenting the latter.

Chambersburg and Harrisburg drew good crowds when the circus invaded Pennsylvania, good crowds continued until the circus touched down in the coal mining areas and lower New York state. A sudden upswing of full houses greeted the show along the St. Lawrence with excellent days in Oswego, Ogdensburg and Massena.

By now the show was on top of itself. In Watertown tickets and posters were out the afternoon before the play-date. Despite this two half houses were registered again - in the rain. Backyard speculation and conjec-

ture ran rampant about what business would have been had the advance been handled better.

Burlington, Va. was the first and only promotion date of the season. Business was brisk, promotion was good. Following this Rutland was played without the top, also a first, due to the sudden construction of light poles and paving of the shopping center. Here, too, the route stopped, and so did the G-M Circus, for a three week layoff.

On Sept. 11th, the G-M Circus reopened in Akron (Ohio) for a four day run under Police sponsorship. As in Foster City (Calif.) the show's opening spot in March, rain and cold swept over the big tent but, this time, business was not affected. Full houses and turn-aways dotted the run and the show moved to Cleveland for seven days in two different locations. This was a promotional date and with excellent business

(Continued on Page 15)



Harriet Beatty is shown here rehearsing the wirewalking lion between shows when the Clyde Beatty Circus was in Los Angeles, Calif., in 1944.

SHOW GUESTS

Visitors seen on the lot of the Beatty-Cole Circus at Ann Arbor, Michigan, last month included:

Don and Martha Smith, Hayes Ganiard, Clarence Hastings, Bob Reinhart, George DaDeppo, Robert Harrison and Mr. and Mrs. David Carpenter.

Show Ok - Small Crowd

A mere handful of people turned out to see the Emmett Kelly Jr. Circus which presented two performances in the Oakland (Calif) Auditorium on Sept. 27th. The show also presented two performances in the Concord Pavilion before jumping into Texas and Kansas. Engagements are pending before the end of the year at Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

The show's equipment is clean and neat. The ring curb and all prop boxes are red and white. The center ring mat is blue and white, with a large white star in the center. They have one truck which is white with the show's title in red.

PEOPLE

COL. JOHN HOWARD recently closed his summer magic tour and jumped into Texas for the winter

ROBERT L. MITCHELL, advance man for Sells & Gray Circus has purchased a number of old Bill-board magazine from DON SMITH, of Michigan.

FRANK MOGYOROSI and his lions are currently featured at the Six Flags Over Georgia Park near Atlanta.

JACK BENNETT, circus man, is working in a new movie called "She Came to the Valley."

JOHN HERRIOTT and family will join the Beatty-Cole Circus at New Orleans on Oct. 24th for the remainder of the season.

BARBARA WOODCOCK and the elephant Anna Mae were featured on TV's "Movin' On" show seen nationally on Sept. 30th.

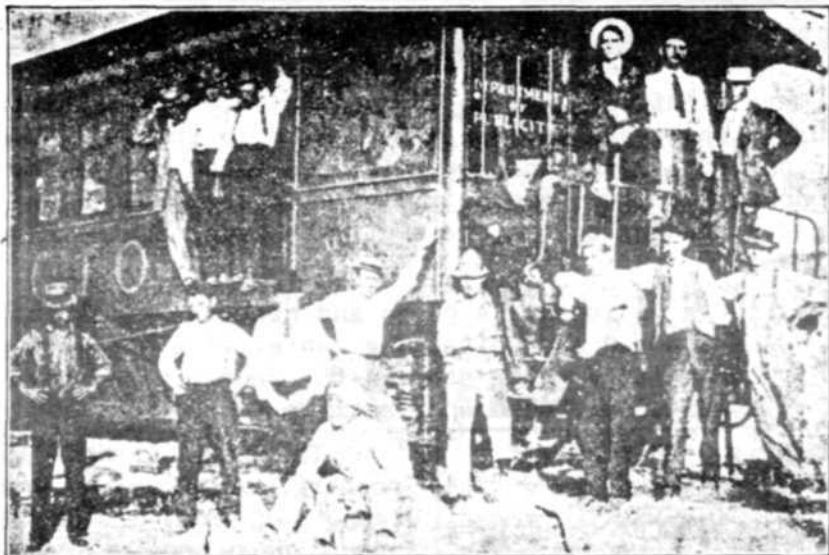
The band, directed by Stan Freeberg, consisted of drums, organ, sax, trumpet and trombone. Announcing chores were handled by Sandy Dobritch, and the unit is managed by Ed Magley.

Admission prices were set at \$3.00; \$4.00; \$5.00 and \$6.00

The program featured:

Introduction of Emmett Kelly, Jr.
 The Bruski - unicycle/balance
 Dwight Moore - dogs
 Doris & Frank - rolling globe
 Nina & Gregory - Soviet clowns
 Larry Johnson - elephant
 The Bertini Duo - aerial cradle
 -- Intermission --
 The Bruski - perch act
 Nina & Gregory - clowning
 Los Calumbos - aerial cradle
 Col. J. P. - comedy tank
 Erna's chimps (3)
 Nina & Gregory - perch act
 The Ashton's - risley
 Emmett Kelly, Jr's farewell





PERSONNEL of Sells-Floto Advertising Car No. 1, season of 1909. Standing on the ground, left to right: Al Hall, boss billposter; William Funk, now living in Kansas City, Mo.; Leo Faber; Mike Conners, car manager; Pearl Bryan, Pete Mitchell and Fred McKeen. Ed McKeen is seated in front with dog. Among those on steps and platform are a Mr. Kettlean, Paul Barnes and Rolla Jones. In side door to the right are Bill Lynch and "Pop" Bell.

Busy Year

During the summer months of this year Bradd Frank, horseman and roper, played at a park in North Carolina, then jumped into Canada before heading for his home in Florida. He is currently breaking a new dancing horse for his work.

On June 4th, Bradd and Sheila became the parents of a baby girl (6 lb. 7 oz.) which they named Anita Daun. Her older sister, 4 yr. old Athena Troy joined the rope and whip act this summer, holding targets for the whip act and presenting her own rope numbers.

Aptmnt Made

Hubert Wells, animal trainer, has recently been named Director of the National Congress of Animal Trainers and Breeders' office in California. (Box 134, Thousand Oaks, Calif. 91360 -- Phone: (805) 495-2122).

Mr. Wells has many years of experience training exotic animals for movies and TV. His main task at this time is to bring together the entire problem of the new California law and investigate what avenues are open to make it more workable for the trainers and breeders of California.

R-B Dedicates Barnum Memorial

In recognition of P. T. Barnum's show business achievements and his historic involvement in Denver, Colo., the Ringling-Barnum Circus dedicated a permanent memorial to Barnum at Denver's Barnum Park Recreation Center on Sept. 26th. The event was held in conjunction with the show's Blue Unit engagement at Denver on Sept. 24-28.

On Oct. 10, 1872, Barnum lectured on temperance at Denver and on Sept. 19, 1877 he lectured again, at Greeley. Then on March 21, 1878, he bought 800 acres of land that he called Villa Park, in Denver, where he planned to establish his circus winterquarters. Later he decided it was unsuitable and lacked an ample supply of water.

Barnum offered all or part of his holdings to his son-in-law (Dr. W. H. Buchtel, who was once the governor of Colorado) in 1882, then filed papers for the area dedicating the streets and alleys for public use. In 1884, Barnum transferred all his Denver holdings to his daughter Mrs. Helen M. Buchtel.

Since then the former Barnum area has become a vital part of southwest Denver. Some of the streets there still retain names relating to show business. Included in the area are three parks, with modern recreational facilities.

Miscellaneous

The Los Muchachos Circus, from Spain, is currently touring

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N. Y. LAW (Continued)

Three permits are required for the possession of animals in the state. One permit is necessary to bring animals into the state, a second for those who are staying or moving about within the state and another for those planning to leave the state.

The permits are free and can be obtained by writing to: New York State Dept. of Environmental Control, Albany, N.Y.

Australia under the sponsorship of Ashton's Circus.



When the Carson & Barnes Circus played Powder Springs, Ga. (Sept. 21) circus musical enthusiast Paul E. Fitzpatrick was on hand to greet friends and to compile the show's musical program.

The following musical information was compiled for Circus Report by Paul Fitzpatrick and the show's band leader Emil Hahn.

Overture

Burma Patrol

Flag Entry -

Billboard March

Don Carr - cat act -

Thunder and Blazes

Jungle Queen

Big Cage Galop

Loop-the-Loop and Hair Hang

Impossible Dream

Neola Waltz

Don Carr - Elephant and Lion

Trouping Days

Jugglers, Contortion, Wire, etc

Mambo Jambo

Wall Street Rag

Clowns

Lazus Trombone

Main Circus Spec

Robinson's Fanfare

Circus on Parade

Around the World in 80 Days

Be A Clown

Robbins Bros. Triumphal

Risley Act

Stop It

Single elephant in each ring

Barnum & Bailey's Favorite

The Clowns

Trombone Blues

Aerial Ballet

Up Music

Valencia

Up Music for the star

Autumn Leaves

Beyond the Blue Horizon

East of the Sun

Down Music

Serenada

Can Can

Exit Music

The Liberty Horses

Memphis the Majestic

Quality Plus

Teeterboard act

Peanut Fanfare

Broadway One Step

Hair Hang in 3 rings

Spanish Eyes

Somewhere My Love

Amor

California, Here I Come

One Finger Stand - Wire act

Heartaches

What a Difference a Day Makes

Riding Ramos

March Guadalupe

Home Stretch Galop

(Continued on Page 15)

CARSON & BARNES (Continued)

The Clowns

Miss Trombone

Elephant number

Bravura

London Bridges Falling Down

Merry-go-Round Broke Down

Royal Decree

The Band Played On

Rock-a-bye Baby

Olympia Hippodrome

Longmount Fanfare

Go Galop - exit

High Wire Act

Begin the Beguine

Merry Widow Waltz

So What's New

Shangra-La

Winter Sports

Lucy Loyal in Center Ring

Fine and Dandy

Charlie Boy

If You Knew Susie

When You're Smiling

I'm Just Wild About Harry

Toot Toot Tootsie Goodbye

Give My Regards to Broadway

I Don't Care

No Biz Like Show Business

Rola Bolla act

Bull Trombone

Tiger Rag

Flying Act


Robinson's Grand Entry

Wedding of the Winds

Circus Echoes

Exit Music

March Gloria

In Memoriam 

GARY HOOVER, son of wild animal trainer Dave Hoover, who is featured with the Beatty-Cole Circus, died on Sept. 18th after suffering with a brain tumor

THE G-M STORY (Continued)

but again plagued by rain and cold and a muddy lot at the Cloverleaf Speedway the last four days.

Sept. 21st found the show cold-dating in New Philadelphia (Ohio) to fair business on another muddy lot.

Moundsville (W. Va.) on the 22nd was another major promotion date with excellent business, but the show sat in a virtual sea of ankle deep mud with torrential rains. The last truck pulled off the lot at 4 a.m. facing a long jump into Clarksburg (W. Va.) for the show's closing date of the season.

Members of the circus band, including Georgia Windjammers* are:

Emil Hahn - leader and organ

Dave Katowski - trombone

Ed Firth - baritone horn

Leslie Harkness - trumpet

Harry Frazier - trumpet

Ronnie Bessette - drums

Robert Peckham* - trombone

Rick Peckham* - trombone

Jim Cornell* - trumpet