



Volume 2

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Unsolved Problems

if something isn't done soon the Tom Mix Museum, at Dewey, Okla., will have to shut down. Their bills are mounting faster than the money is coming in, officials reported last week.

"What it boils down to, is that we must attract more attendance at the door or sell off what we own to take care of the present indebtedness," says Bill Halter, president of the museum's board of directors.

The museum has a \$250 monthly rent to pay on its building, which is past due, the utility bills keep coming in and there is a note that's owed the bank. Fortunately, says Halter, we have an understanding landlord and the banker is on our board of directors.

The museum was started a couple of years ago as a memorial to Tom Mix, who at one time in his career was marshal of the small town of Dewey. Most of the collection displayed there was purchased from a private party in Van Nuys, Calif.

The museum needs about 10,000 visitors between now and September to meet the payments. During the past year they attracted only 4,075 people, half of which were non-paying students.

EARL'S PEARLS: Animal trainer Gunther Gebel-Williams of the Ringling Bros. circus mentioned that elephants are very near-sighted: "Fortunately this isn't a serious handicap, because they do very little reading."

The Crack-Up

A truck load of elephants and a station wagon filled with doves and ducks, was involved in an accident at Miner, Mo. on April 26th. The animals and equipment are a part of the King Bros. Circus which was playing at nearby Sikeston, Mo. that day.

Police report the accident occurred as Joseph Rex, circus truck driver, was trying to attach a chain to pull the stalled station wagon. Rex and the equipment was struck by an oncoming car, causing him multiple abrasions and possible internal injuries.

Rex was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment, then was transferred to the S. E. Hospital at Cape Girardeau, Mo. where he will be confined for some time. (He'd like to get cards and letters from friends) The other driver and none of the animals were injured.

Later police said they had booked the driver of the car which struck the show equipment for driving while intoxicated and with a revoked driver's license.

That Awful Weather

It was really a stormy day when the Hoxie Bros. Circus came into Sandersville, Ga. (April 7), reports Paul Fitzpatrick. There was plenty of rain and it was mud, mud everywhere.

They had to bring in tons of sawdust just to make the lot even halfway presentable. Then at night tractors were required to pull the show trucks off the lot.

Troubled Dream

An interesting and fact-filled story about Judge Roy Hofheinz recently appeared in the Los Angeles Times (Apr. 22). Written by Nicholas C. Chriss, the article reports on some of Hofheinz' wheeling and dealing operations, a man ready to accept the most daring negotiations.

Most people think that Hofheinz owns the Astrodome, but actually it was built through a bond issue. He holds a 44 year lease on the facility and pays \$750,000 a year towards retirement of the bonds.

He successfully negotiated a National League franchise for the Houston Colts (now the Astros) when it was deemed impossible (1960). Today it is all part of his Astromain Corp. which is reportedly worth about \$75 million.

Today Hofheinz is in ill health, partly paralyzed and confined to a wheel chair. This is the result of a stroke suffered in 1970.

His Astromain Corp., on the brink of disaster, has been turned over to a financial caretaker. But prior to 1972, when he ruled his business he tolerated no interference.

The banks have been hounding him for several short-term loans because he is in default on payments. In fact they were ready to put the corporation into receivership.

Since 1972, Rueben W. Arkane, a good friend and financier, has been trying to get things whipped back into shape. He arranged for a \$38 million long-term loan to relieve the pressure from the banks, then helped to sell off some of the firm's property. Hofheinz put \$600,000 into the sluggish cash flow to keep the company viable.

When Hofheinz and the Felds bought the RBBB show it was the fulfilment of a long

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PEOPLE

JIM SILVERLAKE is the owner/manager of Lewis Bros. Circus.

DUVAL & TRINA, balancing act, were on the Mike Douglas TV Show on April 25th.

SMOKEY JONES reports he visited most of the shows playing Southern California, plus a couple of Mexican shows.

GUY GOSSING was clawed by one of his tigers while performing at Portland, Maine last month.

TEX SMITH, horse trainer, has been accused of exhibiting a "sored" Tennessee Walking Horse.

HENRY KEYES has suffered another heart attack and is in the hospital once again.

DICK ANGELISTO, drummer, is reportedly ill and no longer able to tour. He was with Polack and Ringling-Bernum in recent years.

JIM and SANDRA WINDLAND's truck broke down near Jasper, Tenn. while on their way to join Lewis Bros. Circus. During their five day layover they visited Hi-Lo Merk, the clown, who lives at Jasper.

JOE HODGINI, Sr., and his wife attended the ground breaking ceremonies for RBBB's Circus World Park in Florida. Also at the event was LOU JACOBS.

FLORENCE McINTOSH and JERRY PRESSLEY are handling advance publicity for the Fisher Bros. Circus this season.

dream. The circus, however, was sold to save the large Hofheinz corporation.

At the age of 15 Hofheinz graduated from school and began supporting his family. His father was killed in an accident. At 19 he passed the state bar, then became a legislator at the age of 22. When he was 24 he was the nation's youngest county judge, and at 25 he started to get rich with radio and real estate investments. At the age of 40 he was Mayor of Houston.

Now he still visits the Astrodome almost every day, smokes cigars and wears a Houston's Astro cap. His speech is a bit slow, but he still has plenty of ideas for the future.

The Magnificent Giant

For the first time in five years, a steam locomotive is going to pull the Old Milwaukee Special circus train from Baraboo to Milwaukee for the annual Schlitz July 4th Parade. The engine will be Southern Railway's famous No. 4501, which like the circus wagons it will haul, was saved from the scrap pile.

The 122 mile trip will start from the Circus World Museum at Baraboo on June 29 at 6 p.m. Arrival at Milwaukee, over the same route as was traveled last year (see Circus Report for June 19, 1972) is set for 2:30 p.m. Unloading of the famous old wagons will take place at the lakefront area.

Engine No. 4501 was built by Baldwin in 1911 at Philadelphia. It has been painted sylvan green and is trimmed with gold leaf.

The train will include 22 flat cars, (68 wagons), plus 5 passenger cars and 2 stock cars.

Thrilling SHOW

The program presented for the Bektash Temple Shrine Circus at Manchester, N.H., on April 12-15 featured:

The Palace Duo - aerial gymnasts
Jane and her tiger riding a horse
Marcellis - slack wire
Los Latinos - tight wire
Terzan Zerbini - wild animals
Clowns
Janet and Frank's Dogs and Pony Revue
Verdus Troupe - rolling globes
The Great Huberto - slide for life
Clowns -
Derizkies, Hans & Co. and Angelinas -
Burger's Chimps
The Clowns
Van Donwan's seals and penquins
Sudrev's, Eder's and Nos John - balan.
Miss Luci, Gayle, Francine and Sandra
aerial ballet feature
Mademoiselle Jacqueline - trapeze
The Murray Hill elephants

The show's staff included:

Robert Snowden - producer
Robert Hall - Band director
Murray Hill - announcer/equest. dir.

following tradition

the lovely city of Baraboo, which has a nostalgic vestige of circus Americana, is nestled in a beautiful valley in south-central Wisconsin. It's unique circus heritage is known to all students of circus history. It was here that the famous Ringling brothers family had its beginnings and began their fabulous circus career with a 45 x 90 ft. tent in 1884.

The famous Gollmar circus also carved its circus niche here. During the heyday of the circus other lesser known circuses hit the road from Baraboo, one of which was the Hocum Circus.

It was my good fortune to meet Mrs. Helen Hocum, of Baraboo, last fall at the Milwaukee Arena, where Ringling Bros. - Barnum & Bailey were playing. She told me of her husband's circus, that traveled in Wisconsin, under his name. She is related to the Gollmar family, and her son Bob is following the family's circus tradition and on Feb. 23, 1973 made his circus debut in Charleston, S.C.

The strong circus family background has a deciding influence on Bob and for many years he has been preparing himself for the day when he hopes to be billed with the RBBB circus.

His debut in Charleston, S.C., last February with the Hanneford Circus was a real thrill for him and his mother, who was there to witness her son's first professional performance. Bob is the fourth generation of the Hocum circus family, his father and grandfather having both owned a circus. His grandmother came from the Gollmar circus family. The family line traces back to another generation of the Ringling family.

Mrs. Hocum reports that her son will be performing at the Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee this summer. This is good news to his friends and relatives in Baraboo, it will give them the opportunity to see Bob's aerial act (trapeze and breakaway), as he continues his family's circus tradition.

. . . .Norman Wilbert

Hans Rode - Boss Prop man
Pierre Soren - lighting supt.

lot changed

When the Miller-Johnson Circus played San Bernardino, Calif. (Apr. 20-22) they were on a lot north of town. The show was supposed to have set-up on the Little League Stadium field, but were unable to do so because new grass had just been planted. As a result they used their seats and sidewalled the show alongside the stadium.

Business was good and the weather was clear and sunny. However, there were some gusty winds that bothered some of the high acts.

This is really a circus, with a nice band, and good spec. They have horse drawn wagons, a camel drawn cage and all of the personnel in this opening feature.

Of particular interest to this writer was Pat Anthony's cat act and the Naughtin's Bears. Incidentally, the Naughtins jumped into Las Vegas to make a TV special with Merv Griffin, then dashed back to join the show. (The TV spot was booked by Simone Finner and was shown across the nation on May 2nd).

The circus has 11 elephants and is traveling on 14 show owned trucks, each of which is pulled by a rental tractor.

. Marvin Krieger

PROGRAM FEATURES

Featured in the 1973 Clark & Walters Circus program are:

Brownie Silverlake - Suzie, the llama
 Freddie White - dogs
 Pat Haag - sky diving dog
 Sheryl Haag and Fabi Bridges - swinging ladder routines
 Kim Sue Haag - acrobatic contortion
 Brownie's trick monkey
 Joe Silverlake - Comedy gorilla
 Freddie White - suspended perch
 Clowns
 Pat Cloud - comedy goat act
 Fabi Bridges - Spanish web
 Clowns
 The Haag Family - bareback riding
 Joe Silverlake - rola bola/juggling
 Harold Cloud - elephant "Big Jennie"
 (Continued on Page 6 - Column 1)

SHRINE-POLACK BROS.



The Polack Bros. Circus came to Oakland, Calif. last week for a three day stand (Apr. 27-29) and presented six performances. Business for the entire run can be described as good.

Two brand new acts are on the program this year -- The Zamperla's with their riding and lion act. The lions are housed in a large cage and the animals move in and out of the arena via an old style runway, something not used too often these days.

The program line-up included:

Erik Acadis - feats of balance
 Adam's comedy chimps and dogs
 The Alejandro Duo - slack wire
 Bianco and his lions
 Brickle's poodle review
 Dresler Bros. & Hedy - aerial motorcy
 The Esqueda Troupe - teeterboard
 Miss Francesca - single trapeze
 The Flying Gibsons
 Tom & Pompom Donoho - elephants
 The Raymills - aerial gymnasts
 Don Nothdorft - illusions
 Miss Sarzochil - single trapeze
 The Great Segura - bounding rope
 The Tabak Duo - rotating perch pole
 Les Weldons - acro-balancing
 The Zamperla Troupe - bareback riding

Clowns are this year's show are: The Three Andersons (Juan, Majil, Ricardo); John Conrad; Bill Brickle and Bill Slater.

Show officials include:

Louis Stern - owner/managing director
 Sam T. Polack - general agent
 Opal M. Paige - auditor
 Viola MacLeod - Chicago secretary
 George Paige - concessions manager
 Arthur Barrett - asst. concession mgr.
 Robert Hynds - Prop boss
 Don Nothdorft - ringmaster/announcer
 Vaughn Pelletier - band master
 Wilma Rensch - organist

HISTORICAL FACT

Allen King, wild animal trainer, was a half owner of the Rice Bros.-King Circus in 1935. He also presented his wild animal act at every performance.

ROUTES

Beatty-Cole Circus
 May 7 Charlottesville, Va
 8 Roanoke
 9 Lynchburg
 10 Richmond
 11-13 Norfolk

Hubert Castle Circus
 May 7-10 Regina, Sask.
 11-13 Brandon, Mant.

Circus World Museum
 May 12-Sep. 16 Baraboo, Wis

Clyde Bros. Circus
 May 8-9 Hibbing, Minn.
 10 Sault Ste Marie
 11-12 Sit. Ste. Marie, O
 13-14 Sudbury

FSU Flying High Circus
 May 11-12 Tallahassee, Fla

Gatti-Charles Circus
 May 13-18 Seattle, Wash.

Great Y Circus
 May 11-12 Redlands, Calif

Hamid-Morton Circus
 May 10-13 Cherry Hill, NJ

Hanneford Circus
 May 13 Springf'd, Ohio

Hoxie Bros. Circus
 May 7 Portsmouth, Oh.
 8 Jackson
 9 Heath
 10 Lancaster
 11 Enon
 12 Dayton

Kaye Continental Circus
 May 10-13 Springf'd, Mo.

Miller-Johnson Circus
 May 6-7 Concord, Calif
 8-9 Santa Cruz
 10-11 Santa Rosa
 12-13 San Rafael

Polack Bros. Circus
 May 11-12 Eugene, Ore.

Ringling's Blue Unit
 May 10-13 Kitchener, Ont.

Ringling's Red Unit
 to May 28 New York, N.Y.

Royson Bros. Circus
 May 7 Liburn, Ga.
 8 McDonald
 10 Madison
 11 Comer
 12 Gibson

Rudy Bros. Circus
 May 12-13 Richmond, Cal.

Fisher Bros. Circus
 May 7 Littlefield, Texas
 8 Dimmitt
 9 Silverton
 10 Memphis
 11 Claredon
 12 Claude

Sells & Gray Circus
 May 7 Wilmington, N.C.
 8 Whiteville
 9 Fayetteville
 10 Goldsboro
 11 Jacksonville
 12 New Bern

John Strong Circus
 May 7 La Puente, Calif.
 8 Off
 9 Guadalupe
 10 Nipomo
 11 Pismo Beach
 12 Morro Bay
 13 Lompoc

.... CARNIVALS

James H. Drew Shows
 May 7-13 Charleston, W. Va.

Rose City Rides
 May 7-12 Harvester, Mo.
 13 St. Charles

S & S Amusements
 May 7-12 Carbondale, Pa.

Spencer Amusements
 May 15-19 Meriden, Conn.

.... OTHER ROUTES

Dancing Waters
 May 4-13 San Francisco, Ca.

El Paso Centennial
 May 10-20 El Centro, Texas

Home Show
 May 4-13 San Francisco, Cal.

Roller Derby
 May 11 Oakland, Calif.

Scout-O-Rama
 May 12 Oakland, Calif.

The May Fair
 May 10-13 Dixon, Calif.

HISTORICAL FACT. . . .

Roy Alderfer, son of Chas. Alderfer, owner of a circus by that name (1913) later operated a tailoring establishment at Crane, Texas.

The show operated for many years as an overland circus.

NOTES

RBBB has given a 3½ yr. old tiger to the Knoxville, Tenn. zoo. The tiger "Sabu" has been a part of Charley Baumann's act for several years.

Polack Bros. Circus will be playing at the San Mateo, Calif. Fair for two days this fall.

The Gatti-Charles Circus is going to use a 200 x 400 ft. tent for their Seattle, Wash. date this month.

The National Guard at Cape Girardeau, Mo., sponsored a circus in that city on April 27-28.

Personal property of the late Harry Quillen will be auctioned at the Public Guardian Warehouse, 9536 Brashee St. Pico Rivera (Cal) on May 26th at 9 a.m.

Voorheis Bros. Circus opened its 1973 season at Van Wert, Ohio on April 27th.

A Seattle, Wash. "boiler room" was shut down last month so the sponsor of a show could gain an additional 70% in sales revenue.

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CIRCUS

The above advertisement was used by the show at Oakland, Calif. in 1938.

AN EASTERN CIRCUS

An interesting and entertaining show, but one not well known by the fans, has been operating in the eastern states for some seven years now. It is the "Children Magic Circus" owned and operated by Jim Nordmark, of Sarasota, Fla., with Hines Rucker serving as manager.

This year the show opened at Thomasville, N.C., on Jan. 28th and they'll be on the road until late December. The show plays in school gyms and auditoriums, as well as other facilities. This year they will go into the new Circus Towne Park (Twin Mountain, N.H.) for 10 weeks starting on June 23rd. (Acts announced for the park engagement appeared in Circus Report for April 16, 1973).

Acts appearing with the road show version of the circus are:

Opening production - entire company
 Miss Patti - foot juggling
 Texas Don & Betty - Rope spinning
 Mike Janes - comedy number
 Princess Patricia - Magic
 The Ruckers - uncaged leopard
 Hines & Co. - sword balancing
 Don Strong - hand juggling
 Ed Tandy - trained poodles
 Mike Janes - Comedy gorilla
 Texas Don & Betty - Whips
 The Ruckers - Magic Trunk Escape



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PROGRAM FEATURES (Continued)

Personnel in executive positions on the show are:

Billy Griffen - manager
 Dave Knoderer - announcer/drums
 Joe Silverlake - snake show
 Clara Stevens - cookhouse/candy floss
 Jack Gobbles - big top boss
 Jennie Gobbles - snow cones
 Josephine Silverlake - front door
 D. Knoderer - side show
 Dutch LeBlair - jewelry stand

The show's side show has an inside stage within the 30 x 60 ft. tent. Animals in the top include: elephant, llama, and other creatures.

A straight-body truck is used as a cage, which pulls a cage trailer. These animals are: monkeys, chimp, coyote, a bear, procupine and a pair of havalines.

The mobile unit also carries stakes, poles, ticket box, side wall and the 7 ft. side poles and 16 ft. enter poles. The side show top is loaded on the spool truck.