



6th Year

November 7, 1977

Number 45

Coming - MOSCOW CIRCUS

After a successful seven city tour in Canada the Moscow Circus opens a two month U. S. tour this week in Chicago. The show will feature some 12 acts never before seen in this country, and is being presented here by Morris Chalfen and Tom Collins under the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Cultural Exchange Program.

Highlights of the upcoming tour include the daredevil riding of Tamerlan Nugzarov and his troupe of Cossack horsemen, the delightful comedy of the new master clown Yuri Kuklachev, and the Rustam Kaseyev's bears in "Bear Lake", an unusual version of a well-known Russian ballet.

During its U. S. tour, the first appearance here in two years, the Moscow Circus will play in: Chicago, Cincinnati, Providence, Philadelphia, Hartford, Washington, DC and New York City.

The tour starts Nov. 10th and runs thru Jan. 2nd for a total of 46 show days.

GOOD DATE

Following a bitter cold snap, Indian Summer arrived briefly to give Circus Vargas four days of sunny days, mild nights and packed houses here in the densely populated D.C. area. The third Sunday show was a turnaway requiring

(Continued on Page 17)

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'78 Plans

Circus Vargas will not tour Canada in 1978, says Clifford E. Vargas, but will play a stateside route only, involving many new towns never before visited by America's Number One Show.

The Canadian dollar dipped again very recently and continues to fluctuate wildly on the World Market. In addition taxes levied against U. S. shows and performers, the political instability in Canada at the moment is beginning to make visits to that country "uncomfortable".

Pressure was brought against Circus Vargas in Quebec Province by a rival Canadian circus which, though unsuccessful in impeding the progress of the show, was a nuisance nevertheless. CV made money in Canada, the Maritimes were especially profitable, but the overall tour was short of expectations.

Circus Vargas is currently in the South and will remain in that area until it is time to make its annual trek across the U. S. for its California tour in the spring.

PEOPLE

EMMETT KELLY, Sr., and GERRY KREML, Public Relations Coordinator for the Ringling-Barnum Circus, were guest speakers at the 34th anniversary meeting of the Emmett Kelly CFA Tent. At the same time Emmett Kelly was made an "Honorary Citizen" of Hagerstown, Md.

Miscellaneous

Two babies were born on Circus Vargas in October, one of them enroute between towns.

The former Ringling-Barnum winterquarters site at Sarasota is now a huge apartment complex.

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ROUTES

Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros.
Nov. 8-10 Altamonte Sprgs, Fla.
12-13 Deerfield Beach

Carson & Barnes Circus
Oct. 30 Harrison, Ark.
31 Berryville
Nov. 1 Bentonville
2 Eufaula, Okla.
3 Talihina
4 Mena, Ark.
5 Nashville
6 Hope
- End of Tour -

Hall & Christ Circus Unique
Nov. 11-20 Las Vegas, Nev.

King Bros. Circus
Nov. 9 Lakeland, Fla.
10 Cocoa
11-12 Orlando
13 DeLand
- End of Tour -

Moscow Circus
Nov. 10-13 Chicago, Ill.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Nov. 8-20 Cleveland, Ohio

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
to Nov. 20 Chicago, Ill.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Nov. 7 Rockhill, S. C.
8 Jacksonville, Fla.
9 Daytona Beach
10 DeLand
11 Tampa
12 Sarasota

Sells & Gray Circus
Nov. 7 Selma, Ark.
8 Troy
9 Fort Walton, Fla.
10 Marianna
11 Blountstown
12 Cross City
13 Dunnellon
- End of Tour -

Shrine Circus
Nov. 12-13 Worcester, Mass.

Wonderland Circus Revue
Nov. 7 Pinewood, S.C.
8 Sumter
9 St. Matthews
10 Allendale
11 Ridgeland

.... OTHER ROUTES

Carnival Historical Society Convention
Nov. 12-13 Mt. Prospect, Ill.

Ice Capades
Nov. 8-13 San Diego, Calif.

This Is Hawaii . . . On Ice
Nov. 9-13 Auckland, N. Z.

Texas Date

The American Bankers Convention was held in Houston (Texas) at the Astro Hall, Oct. 15-19, with almost continuous entertainment.

Featured were Paul Driscoll, magic and illusions, who was assisted by four lovely girls. Paul is young, but does a professional job and certainly knows how to keep the audience entertained. He holds the 1975 World Champion Young Magician Award.

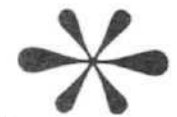
Showing for all five days of the convention was Frank Clauder with several acts, such as ventriloquist, Mr. Brown dog act, Magic by Senor Clauder and Mr. Mysto, the magic clown.

Some of the acts working the date were: The Little People (Betty and Jack De Holt) with juggling, unicycle and eccentric dancing; the Texas Rangers battle with the outlaws; Alabama Coushattas Indian dancing; Astrologer John Quinn; Pinky Hull with his old time and unusual entertainment - playing piano and singing.

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BILLY BARTON....

A GOOD MANY PEOPLE will confirm I have the "nose" to smell the "winners" (as well as the losers), so here goes some predictions for the 1978 "Indoor Circus Scene". Two MAJOR winners will emerge with two shows which will be very successful, both starting with a series of "spot dates" to see how things jell, then go full-speed-ahead in 1979. One show will be produced and promoted by ART BARRETT in the "Western United States"; the other will be promoted and produced by TOMMY BENTLEY and CHUCK CLANCEY on a nationwide basis. Bentley/Clancy walked away triumphant from their "first" date, the Johnstown (Pa) Firemen's Circus, and Art will get his feet wet by producing the Shrine Circus at Springfield (Ill.) on Nov. 11-13.

Other producers to make it big in '78 include SANDY DOBRITCH who will re-activate the famed Dobritch Int'l Circus title on a grander scale, which should see inroads to surprise the Doubting Thomases; and GRACE MacINTOSH and CHUCK MARINE who will add at least two new dates to a route which has lain dormant. It is also possible to see a second unit emerge from JIM NORDMARK in 1978.

ATLANTIC CITY's PALACE HOTEL is wooing BOB HOPE as its headline attraction — just one more confirmation that BIG THINGS are beginning to shape up in Las Vegas East.....High wire artist DANIEL ACOSTA, 31, is making a slow, painful recovery at the Centinela Hospital in Southern California. His face was broken in five places and speech is difficult for the wire walker who fully intends to return to work when he mends.....KARL WALLENDEN fell during the filming of the movie about his life and suffered a cracked neck bone.

IN SICK BAY: FRANK TORRENCE, who is quite ill; CONCHITA ERICKSON, also in bad shape (Dorothy Yerkes has come from California to be with her mother). Out of the hospital and doing better are TOMMY SCOTT (who is recuperating slowly) and JOE GEIGER WALLENDEN who has improved.

SNAPSHOTS: KATHY ENGLISH closed with the Martin & Downs Circus and is in Texas visiting her boyfriend.KLARINKA BERTINI MASCITTO is at least 5 months' pregnant.....IRIS KEPPO is brewing up a flaming romance and may drop her plans to return to Nursing School. Sister ANITA has added a dog to her night club act.....ROSEMARY MARINO and BEVERLY HEIGHMAN visited the OBANDOS recently, report baby Pamela, at only 7 months, is doing great handstands!....BILLY and IVY GUNGA will be with Hoxie's Big Top Circus in '78. Currently

with Great American, the pair sez that show shutters on Oct. 15th.....MARY RUTH HERRIOTT, who was with G-A, left due to her daughter, Weiner's, illness.... TONY SMAHA, Jr. and JEANNETTE RIX tied the knot in late September, earlier than we all expected!DEL GRAHAM roasted a buffalo at the Minnesota State Fair Hanneford Thrill Show and also passed around Venison SalamiSet for Garden Bros. Circus main tour in 1978 are the FURNARSARIES, the ALBERTO ZOPPE FAMILY, The Great OSCAR, the DROUGETTES and the VERDUES.

QUICKIES: STRUPPI HANNEFORD received countless sets of pajamas at her recent birthday party. Is she being told she needs more sleep? Struppi goes to Germany this winter to visit her family and NOBODY has earned a vacation MORE than this gal!....Cartoonist RAY DIRGO spent a day visiting yrs. truly on Royal Hanneford and is designing a new logo for next season's column...TINY PHILLIPS journeyed to the Hagerstown (Md) Emmett Kelly CFA function when EMMETT KELLY, Sr. was guest speaker....ETHEL'S GREYHOUNDS joins Royal Hanneford for some dates in December.....GOLDA and ROBERT MELUZZI, Jr. have returned from Bolivia where they were working with the MELUZZI CIRCUS.....TINO, RICKY, DELILAH, TERRY, ANDY, KARL WALLENDEN, DAVID and RIETTA all have parts in the Wallenda movie now being filmed in Sarasota....JACKIE and MORGAN ASHTON appeared for the summer at Great Adventure in New Jersey.

EVA MAE LEWIS, TORCHY TOWNSEND and the NICCOLINIS cut up jackpots with ETHEL JENNIER during the Beatty Kokomo (Ind) date. Ethel and Walter once owned a house in the area (across the street from PAUL KELLY), and waxed nostalgic with her old cronies....That new drummer with STU MILLER on MagicTime USA is HOWARD BRADY.....Sir VICTOR JULIAN, INGE and ANGELO BISBINI and LOS LATINOS joined Royal Hanneford at Knoxville (Tenn)....The Hanneford tour is extended to Dec. 15th. WALTER JENNIER, Jr. is getting a large van truck ready for his mother's spot-date tour in 1978. The truck will house the greyhounds and props, also a "dressing room" for the ageless star....Living in Laredo, Texas, are RAYMOND ESCORTIA, 80, retired bandmaster; musician DON ANDERSON, KILOWATT. FIZTPATRICK and DON PERKINS who was press agent for Beatty-Cole. CHARLIE BAUMANN and JIMMY JAMES are now doing the "Tiger Chase" following DAVE HOOVER's cat act on B-C., which according to reports is getting a good laugh.

(Continued on Next Page)

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YEARS AGO

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Their tents are: 4 pole big top; 6 pole menagerie; 4 pole side show; 6 pole dressing room; 8 pole horse tents; 7 pole cookhouse; 2 pole kitchen tent; barber shop; five small tents; and three candy stands.

The menagerie has 13 cages - polar bears, brown bears, seals, monkeys, lions (3), tigers (6), elephants (11), camels (11) and ponies (13). They also have 50 head of ring stock which are in the dressing tent.

In the side show are band and minstrels, untamable lion, snakes, half girl, giant, fat girl, punch, sword swallower, Oriental, tattooed, escape, fire eater and mentalist. The top has ten banners, and an entrance banner, bally platform and two ticket stands.

Wagons include: grand stand chairs, grand stand planks, ticket wagon, three electric light plants, 13 cages, big top poles, two stinger wagons, a jack wagon, reserved seats, seat planks, ring curbs, cannon, steam table wagon, three cookhouse wagons, stake driver, horse tents, stake & chain, privileges, two tractors, menagerie, dogs,

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

Some days it doesn't pay to get out of bed, as Magician SENOR RAI discovered during a matinee on Royal Hanneford, when, first ... the zipper in his jumpsuit broke, then a dove flew away, after which that particular bird illusion fell apart, and finally, during the big wind-up of his act, a leg fell off the doll house! One girl supported the propprwith her knee, while the other girl climbed out! As Rai would say: "Clarisse! Fix the martinis and don't spare the gin!" See you down the road, luvs....

Buffalo front, two canvas wagons, picture front, two tanks and an auto.

The circus played on the Hampden Park ground and both afternoon and night show had good crowds. The horse tents and cookhouse were taken down as soon as supper was over with. The side show and menagerie were taken down as soon as the night show started. Everything was down and off the lot early and on the trains shortly afterwards when they headed for Providence, R. I.

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Show Features

The program presented by the Sam T. Polack Circus at Camp LeJeune, N. C., on Oct. 15-16 included: Lilli Ana, leopards; Miss Lydia, single trapeze; Clowns; Karl's Poodles; Clowns; Miss Margarita, hair hang; the Davis Duo, trampoline; the Burkett Duo, aerial perch; Miguel, tightwire; The Caroline Sisters; Clowns; Kim Kristensen, horse; Hap Davis and his Comedy Car; Clowns in 'A Wedding'; Roman Schmitt's elephant and rhino; Espana Flyers.

The show was produced by Sam T. Polack, with Al Dawley serving as Ringmaster/Announcer. Boom Boom Browning was the band leader, Ron Kelroy was prop boss and John McKay was producing clown.

The program at Charleston, W. Va., presented by the Sam T. Polack Circus, for Oct. 21-23 included: The Caroline Sisters, contortion; Pat Anthony, wild animals; the Burkett Duo, aerial

Party Date

The annual Birthday Celebration Party of the Paul Eagle's Circus Luncheon Club has been set for 12 noon on Monday, Nov. 14th. The party will be held as usual at Philippe's Restaurant, 1001 North Alameda St., Los Angeles, Calif.

This year the party has been delayed to enable members who are usually on the road to attend the event. Refreshments, a birthday cake and door prizes are planned.

perch; Tony Smaha; Miguel, tightwire; Clowns; Karl's Poodles; Clowns; Roman Schmitt and his elephant and rhino; Margarita, hair hang; the Obandos, high wire; Miss Lydia, single trapeze; the Carlos Duo, perch; Erna's chimps; Clowns; the Elkins Sisters, dogs/acro; Clowns; George's Comedy Car; the Smaha horses and the Flying Espanas.

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FELIX ADLER TENT

Members of the Felix Adler Tent, CFA, held their Fall Banquet on Oct. 16th, in Clifton, N. J., with over 50 circus fans and friends attending. Representation from the Bob Dover Tent, the John Herriot Tent and the Felix Morales Tent also were at the meeting.



John Bellas, retiring tent president, introduced Allen Duffield, National Secretary/Treasurer who gave a short report on the workings of his office. New officers named for the coming year were: President, Maxine House, Vice President, Irma Lime and Secretary and Treasurer, Frank Mara.

Guest speaker of the evening was Frances Brunn, one of the world's greatest jugglers, who, for many years was with Ringling-Barnum. He has toured Europe extensively and currently is playing club dates. In addition to a brief talk and answering questions about jugglers he presented two films; the first in color, was of his performance on a show in Paris. The second, was of his performance as a guest on a Jack Benny TV show, where he appeared with George Burns and Ann-Margaret

..... John Tiny Phillips

Show Acts

Acts appearing at the Orangeburg, S.C., Fair last month were: Bob Trent, MC and ventriloquist; Miss Carmen, tight wire; Hunky Johnson's bears; Carmen de Molino, balancing trap-eze; Angela Willnow and her Collie dogs; and Florine Oler at the organ.

The show was produced by Oler Enterprises of Sarasota and booked by Howard Schultz of Chicago.

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PEOPLE

The GUTIS FAMILY followed their fair season with dates for EDDIE ZACCHINI, BILL GARDEN and BOB SNOWDEN. The show family also has a string of Christmas dates set.

JIM SWAFFORD visited the Kaye Continental Circus at Pomona, Calif., and reports it was a top notch show.

JIM NORDMARK, who fields the Int'l All Star Circus has put out a second unit, a magic show, which closed in Frederick, Md. on Oct. 15 and reopened for the fall-winter tour at Roanoke, Va. on Oct. 26th.

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A Tribute

Having spent nine days and nights with Circus Vargas at two locations, and having observed this operation from set-up to tear down (with a move between), plus having sat in on several high-level conferences, plus having been given total freedom to roam at will from front door to back (a rarity on this show), only one honest conclusion can be drawn: Nothing on tour in the USA rivals this incredible tent show phenomenon. Circus Vargas stands alone, head and shoulders above every big top enterprise in the land and is, in many ways, the most successful and most impressive of all American circuses.

Cliff Vargas has been accused by veteran showmen of doing every thing contrary to normal operating procedures. That is not true. Basic principles employed by the great Big Top shows of the past are very much in evidence here, more so in fact than are they on other shows. The iron-clad "rules" in this business which cannot be ignored in any decade, which are immune to change, are followed intelligently by Mr. Vargas and his staff and, more importantly, put into daily practice.

Knowing what to do is one thing, doing it is another. Circus Vargas does both.

Mr. Vargas has, however, combined the old with the new and the innovative. That which seems

"contrary" to some, is merely his unique way of doing what he does, his way, and doing it well. The results, after all, speak for themselves. Only Circus Vargas can play town after town, 50 weeks a year, stone cold, with no phone promotions or sponsorship, and only a mere handful of sell-outs, and can rack up such consistently high grosses. Others have tried, are trying, and will continue to try, each "copying" a show that has been said to be doing everything "wrong" or "backwards". Ironic isn't it that while others fail to emulate Circus Vargas (meanwhile knocking it), Circus Vargas continues to enjoy increased prosperity and continues to improve its equipment, its performance values, and has grown to be, unquestionably, not only the largest tent circus in the U.S.A., but the most important.

Instead of knocking Clifford E. Vargas, it's about time our industry acknowledges and honors a man who has done more in five years to upgrade the American Circus Image than other showmen have done in fifty.

Only one tent show within recent memory has provided such thrill of sight and sound and that was Ringling under canvas. Circus Vargas is the closest parallel any of us are likely to see in our lifetime.

..... Billy Barton



Circus Report is your best buy for show news, routes and other interesting information.

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Acts Set

Agent Rose Adair booked the following acts into the Emmett Kelly, Jr., Circus date at West Lebanon, Pa., on Oct. 29th: The Cyclonians, Aerialetta II; Cimse's Russian Wolfhounds and Poms; Jo Ann and Sunny, the seal; the Kniesley Duo, cradle and Charlie Van Buskirk, ringmaster/announcer.

The veteran agent also booked Jo Ann and Sunny on the Wonderama TV show in New York City on Oct. 27th and she has juggler Michael Cherrick set at the Chateau Champlain in Montreal for a long run.

Fair Acts

Acts featured at the Topsfield (Mass) Fair for Oct. 1-10 were: The Gutis Family; Charlie Van Buskirk; the Serendipity Singers; Anacani and Chris Zarba Trio from the Lawrence Welk Show; Alex Houston and Elmer, vent; the Conti Family Bobby Burgess and Cissy King (also of the Welk show); the Cyclonians; the Sunshine Express, vocal group; Charlie's Acromaniacs and the Amazing Fantasy Jugglers.

GOOD DATE (Continued)

police control.

Circus Vargas was set-up on a tight lot adjacent to the Prince George's Plaza. The lot was strewn with small rocks and was on a slant, as a result the old orange top was used. The nearly 90 units traveling with the circus were jammed jigsaw fashion on the edge of the shopping center around the lot. The front end was squeezed in forcing long lines of people to spill into the car lanes of the center, blocking traffic on Saturday and Sunday.

Clifford Vargas took delivery on a new Diesel tractor here. Many visitors were on the lot, including Washington lawyer Frank Ball, who is spearheading the D.C. group who are raising a CFA tent for Mr. Vargas; Billy and Bonnie Earl; Mary Wise; Billy Barton; Bobby Davis, Jr.; Richard Plume; Vashek and Kathy; Aerialetta; Mr. and Mrs. (Anita Conley) Vonderheid, plus a number of circus fans.

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PEOPLE

EVEL KNIEVEL will soon appear in an episode of TV's "Bionic Woman" in which he and the star LINDSAY WAGNER jump a 50 ft. wide river on a motorcycle.

GUNTHER GEBEL WILLIAMS was the subject of a feature article recently released nationwide by Associated Press.

JOHN SCOTT, of Charlo, Mont., owns a Scottish Highland steer which pulls an oldtime wagon. The steer is almost 6 ft. tall and has a huge span of horns and weighs one ton.

LOU JACOBS, Dean of the American Circus Clowns, was featured in the Oct. 23, 1977 issue of Grit magazine, including a color photo.

LLOYD BRIDGES is playing the part of KARL WALLEDA in the film now being made on the highwire star's life.

The CANNESTRELLI FAMILY is busy preparing to reopen their restaurant in Sarasota. The new restaurant will open on Nov. 15th and MAMA CANNESTRELLI will be in charge of the kitchen.

MARTHA JOYCE slipped, fell and broke her hip the night before her husband's funeral in Sarasota. She is confined to Memorial Hospital in that city.

LEON ADAMS, trick rider, will be featured in

PLAN TO BE IN BERKELEY, CALIF., THIS FALL ??

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the Grand Nationals at San Francisco through Nov. 6th, with his trained Brahma bulls.

BOB and OLIVE NELSON, former circus performers, were presented with the "Persons of the Year" award at the Troupers Get-together, held at Milwaukee (Wisc) on Oct. 22nd.

EDWIN PAPE reports he will be attending the Circus Festival in Monte Carlo on Dec. 7-12 and will be staying at Loews Monte Carlo Hotel. He would like to have CFA's or CMB's attending the event to contact him at the hotel.

JIM CONLEY closed the season on Sept. 18th with Martin & Downs Circus in Canada and announced he was retiring after 62 years in show business. "I'm quitting while I'm still in good health and able to hold almost any job on a show (was announcer on Martin & Downs). I feel I'll enjoy being a Circus Fan and visiting with show folks who come into Ohio," says Jim.

BILLY BARTON spent nine days with Circus Vargas and much of that time was spent in business conferences with CLIFFORD VARGAS.

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MAGIC TIME U. S. A.

Review

"Circus World" at Haines City, Fla.
Sunday, Oct. 23, 1977

by Larry Kent

Ringling Bros.' "Circus World" has finally, in my opinion, arrived as a major Florida tourist attraction. We visited there on Oct. 23rd and were thrilled to see and enjoy the recent additions and changes that have been made.

First, the large-scale presentation formerly called "The Day The Circus Comes to Town" has been slimmed-down, up-dated with new circus acts and is a fast-paced 90 minutes. The former "Broadway Musical" beginning has been eliminated, which was badly needed. The show starts right off with Jewell New's outstanding lion act featuring a dozen of the well-trained animals. After that things happen quickly.

Buckles Woodcock's elephants are well-trained and part of the act includes his young daughter riding a performing punk.

The band is terrific! From our seats it appeared to be 8 or 10 pieces ... mostly brass...and they swung! Authentic circus music was featured and we heard such great numbers as "Barnum & Bailey's Favorite", "Royal Decree", "Stop It", "Olympia Hippodrome", "The Big Cage" & d others.

Col. Trevor Bale had a good turn with some beautiful liberty horses and six lovely young ladies took their turns on the webs. Clown acts are well-costumed and feature some good sight gags. The auditorium is air-conditioned, well-lighted and seating is comfortable with a good

view from almost everywhere.

Outside in the park, an enlarged area now features four Ringling Bros. railroad cars. One showcases a clown workshop, some wardrobe and oldtime photos. Another has the First Aid office and dispensary. A third is a theatre, showing a 10 minute pictorial film on the evolution of the circus. A fourth car is devoted to Gargantua, with photos, memorabilia and the stuffed remains of his so-called son, Gargantua II.

Several old Ringling rail cage wagons are spotted in a playground area, open at the end so that kids can crawl inside and have an "animal's eye view".

An excellent, oldtime Carousel is mounted in the middle, with elephant kraal, a petting zoo, giraffe and camel pens all on one side.

High spot of the visit is a towering roller-coaster type ride similar to the corkscrew. It was busy all afternoon despite rainy skies.

Nearby, a grandstand faces an outdoor circus arena where guests are invited to join in "Participation Circus". Visitors can walk a high wire...jump on a trampoline...fly on a trapeze... all protected by a safety wire.

Inside the main building, a giant screen theatre, called "IMAX" presents a 15 minute color film showcasing an actual RBBB performance. Next door, the James A. Bailey Theatre features an Illusion and Magic show. In the lobby, children of all ages can have their faces done in white-face by an actual clown. Dining facilities, souvenir and gift shops round-out the rest of the main building.

(Continued on Next Page)

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REVIEW (Continued)

My only complaint is that the souvenir shop features all ash trays, tee shirts and piggy banks, although Chappie Fox's book "The Circus In America" is for sale there. The "IMAX" theatre is showing the same film they've had since 1974.

"Circus World" is a good tourist value. Admission for adults is under \$6.00 and once inside the park there is no further charge for anything other than food and souvenirs. They are open 7 days a week and are located just 10 minutes from Disney World in central Florida. It is less than 60 minutes from Tampa/St. Petersburg and Miami is a comfortable 3 hours drive away.

Duo Dates

The Moscow Circus and Ringling's Blue Unit are both in Chicago this week. The Moscow Circus is at the Stadium Nov. 10-13 and Ringling's Blue Unit is at the Int'l Amphitheatre thru Nov. 20th.

In Florida the Royal Lichtenstein Circus will be in DeLand on Nov. 10th and King Bros. plays that city on Nov. 13th, the final date of its '77 tour.

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Show Features

The program presented here at the Los Angeles Pumpkin Festival was called the "Judy Jacobs Circus Minimus" and plays weekends to big crowds.

Acts featured in the program were: Nolly and Polly Tate, dogs and clowning; The Great Lee Bruno, break-away swaypole; Gran Mar, high wire; Rex Horton's bears; Elena Omar, one finger stand; Judy Jacobs, elephant, with Bill Rice handling the announcing.

At different times the McKay Duo, aerial cradle and Ed Drake, Jr., African elephant also appear with the show.

..... Jim Swafford

PEOPLE

GEOFFREY, escape artist and magician, is still amazing audiences in the Orient, Far East and Southeast Asia with his stage show which is now in its seventh month of an extended tour.

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Truck Rolled

A Carson & Barnes Circus truck carrying four elephants overturned on Oct. 21st about five miles south of Mayfield (Ky) on Highway 121.

According to the Kentucky Police report a car, driven by a woman, attempted to make a left turn as the circus truck approached. The truck driver, Gary Byrd, swerved to avoid hitting the car in the rear and the truck overturned when its wheels dropped into a ditch.

The four animals remained inside the enclosed, overturned truck until animal handlers could free them. After being freed they were tied in an adjacent area and remained calm throughout the entire incident.

The driver of the truck was hospitalized for treatment of arm and shoulder injuries.

A wrecker was required to upright the truck and get it back on the road.

The circus was enroute to Mayfield for two performances at the Purchase District Fairgrounds.

Miscellaneous

Hoxie Bros. Circus was featured in the "Fun Lander" supplement of the Palatka (Fla) Daily News on Oct. 7th.

A 60 year old elephant that died of pneumonia last month was reportedly buried in a landfill in Florida.

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PEOPLE

JOE LEMKE's semi tractor was stolen while he laid-over in El Paso (Texas) last month. Police believe the unit was taken directly into Mexico and sold 'as a lot of that sort of thing is happening along the border these days.

The RANDELLS, trampoline act, are touring with the Ice Capades this season.

HARRY ALBACKER, magician, hosted a birthday party for COL. JERRY LIPKO during the Fair at Danbury, Conn., last month.

T. O. COLLINS and HUGO MARQUARDT recently visited the Hoxie Show in Florida. T. O. is a former Sarasota resident and was once a neighbor of JERRY COLLINS. He was president of the JC's during the time they arranged with Ringling to help with the Neptune Festival for which Ringling furnished costumes, seats, etc.

HARRY HOUDINI was fascinated by circus side show magicians as a child and often crawled under the tent for a chance to see them



Florida and Ontario have reportedly entered into a reciprocal agreement whereas vehicles previously required to display Florida plates that are presently displaying Ontario plates will no longer be required to acquire Florida plates, and the same applies to Florida vehicles in Ontario.

The new ruling came about through an agreement between the State and the Province and anyone who has been affected by the previous ruling should contact the Florida Department of Transportation for a clarification concerning the new ruling.

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HE TRIED

(The following item appeared in "Liberty" magazine on Aug. 7, 1926 and is reproduced here for the general interest of readers. The story was entitled "The Man Who Tried 9,000 Times" by Franklin Fargo).

The greatest tragedy of the circus performer's life is that, while most persons enjoy the circus, very few indeed really understand and appreciate it.

The performer tries to make his act graceful, suave; to give it what he calls "the class." "The class" requires him to perform the most difficult feats with the minimum of apparent endeavor. It imparts finish to his act. It is his technique.

The circus management encourages him, for "class" is the ambition of the circus as a whole. But both showmen and performers have been somewhat amazed to discover, as time goes on, that "the class" is not entirely an asset. And for an interesting reason:

A circus performer moves quickly. The most costly acts seldom fill more than seven or eight minutes. Thus the audience has no opportunity to scrutinize carefully what the performers do, or to reflect upon the often amazing degree of effort involved.

It follows that acts which have the most "class" are frequently mistaken for acts which are the least difficult, because the performers go through them adroitly, gracefully, and seemingly without any real great exertion.

This is unfortunate, not only from the performers' standpoint but from the standpoint of the public as well, because the circus, like almost everything else, becomes increasingly enjoyable the more one knows about it.

Take for instance, the case of Ernest and Charles Clarke. The Clarks are brothers, considered by many showmen the greatest high trapeze performers in the world. Their great-great-grandfather was a circus performer, so they were "born to the ring." Ernest is now forty-two years old; his brother is eighteen months younger; and they have been practicing ever since they can remember.

"Among our principal tricks is the double somersault and pirouette," Ernest told me one even-

ing, as we sat on the tongue of a property wagon and watched the crowd file into the Big Top. "We attempted to accomplish it six times daily for two years - or 3,600 times (Sundays and the principal holidays are excluded from our working schedule) - before we did it at all. Then it was exceedingly crude and imperfect in form; it had, in other words, no 'class.'

"So we rehearsed it six times daily for three years more - or a total of 9,000 times - before we exhibited to the public. Yet in our regular performance its essential parts fill just one-half second, while, including all preliminary motions and gestures, it is completed usually in less than a half a minute.

"The trick consists of myself, the leaper, swinging off my platform, high in the top of the tent, with hands gripped on a bar that hangs at the end of two ropes. In midair, I hurtle myself into two somersaults, and, as the latter one is finished, revolve in a pirouette.

"Meanwhile, my brother, Charles, the catcher, swinging from his bar on the opposite side of the trapeze, times his movements so that his hands, which are hanging downward, grip mine just as I start to fall.

"The individual parts of the trick are not difficult for a circus performer; but to synchronize the several elements of the climax perfectly in the short span of half a second is quite difficult.

"Two or three others of our tricks were as difficult to master and are as quickly gone through. We attempted a feat known as 'two pirouettes in the hands' for three years - or more than 5,000 times - and were entirely unsuccessful. So we abandoned it as impossible. After another year, however, we returned to it and perfected it in about 1,800 additional trials and rehearsals.

"Two-fifths of a second is required to accomplish the essentials of that feat, which, including its preliminaries, occupies hardly a minute.

"We start from the same positions as in performing the double somersault and pirouette. I leap from my bar and catch my brother's hands. Charles, of course, is hanging head downward.

"We make a complete swing (about 45 degrees of a circle) with our hands locked together.

(Continued on Next Page)

HE TRIED (Continued)

When we reach the maximum elevation on our return trip through the air, and are over the center of the net, Charles releases his grip. I perform two pirouettes and catch my brother's hands again, before gravity and the pendulum-like movement of his bar carry him out of reach.

"I have to be quick in the pirouettes, because if I fall more than eighteen inches before re-joining my brother, the trick fails.

"The three somersaults' - the last of the trio of principal tricks we happen to be using this season - is similar to the double somersault and pirouette, except that a somersault replaces the pirouette.

"We have been exhibiting this trick for about twelve years. It was brought out of rehearsal about three years after the double somersault and pirouette, and it required only about two years work to perfect, because a great deal of the preliminary work had been done.

"Yet in all the twelve years of its public exhibition we have performed it only 900 times more than its two year rehearsal called for.

"We have mastered a total of 20 tricks, all of which are timed differently. That is, each of them requires me to go to a slightly different elevation before I leave the bar, and Charles to seize me out of the air at a little different juncture.

"Our act, however, is seldom the same. We follow no routine. I do whatever I please. And the funny thing is that I never have to let my brother know what I'm going to do. We have no signals; we seem to have a sort of mental telepathy I suppose it's because we have gone over and over the same things so many times we understand each other instinctively. A circus man knows what that means - all the work that's behind it. The public doesn't.

"Sometimes I think it's better not to have an act too well finished, because it's unquestionably a fact that the more you perfect a really difficult act the easier it seems. And the public's inclination is to take matters at their face value.

"Look at the rosin-back horse - the horse on which the equestrians perform. His stuff looks simple - just to trot around and around the ring. But he is probably the most highly trained ani-

mal in the show. Before he can be used, he has to be taught to make the circuit of the ring always in a certain number of strides; fourteen to sixteen is the average in a 42 foot circle.

"His gait must never vary. He must never falter or stop, no matter what happens. If he does, the equestrian, who as likely as not is turning a somersault on his back, will suffer a fall that may easily be fatal. Yet I'll venture that not more than one person in 50,000 who comes to the circus thinks of the rosin-back as a trained animal. Most of them never think of him at all.

"Europe has produced most of the great circus performers because there the facilities for training have always been better. In every town of any size there is a municipal hippodrome, where one circus will play for as long as six weeks, changing its performance frequently.

"The apparatus, of course, is kept in place, so that the performers can use it in the mornings. And they have an opportunity to train their children.

"The American circus, on the other hand, is always on the move. The apparatus is seldom in place before the afternoon performance is virtually ready to begin, and the performers can use it for their own purposes only an hour or so a day - that is, between the afternoon and the night shows"

Neither Ernest nor Charles Clarke has ever been seriously injured in following their hazardous calling - hazardous because it is quite as easy to be killed by a fall into the net, which all trapeze performers use to protect them, as it is to be killed by another kind of fall.

"I think we have our father to thank for that," Ernest said. "He was a kind but severe man. We never were permitted to try any new trick until we had learned all of its preliminaries to his complete satisfaction. The first thing he taught us was how to fall properly.

"You should fall feet downward, but, at the moment of striking, elevate the feet so as to strike on the back. If that is impossible, you should gather yourself as nearly as possible into a ball, but hold all the muscles loosely. I saw a Japanese killed in Paris not long ago, merely because he failed to ground himself thoroughly in that particular. The fellow missed missed his

(Continued on Next Page)

Fines Set

A Canadian promoter and his wife were fined a total of \$20,000 late last month for fraud involving a circus sponsored by the Guelph (Ont) Police Association.

The Court sentenced Melvin Strilchuk to six months in jail and he was given 12 months to pay a fine of \$15,000, with the option of an additional eight months for default of payment.

His wife, Kathryn, was fined \$5,000 with the option of an indefinite jail term not to exceed six months for default of payment.

The Court was told that the couple asked people to buy tickets which would be used for underprivileged children. Evidence showed that some 32,000 tickets were sold for four performances, although only 16,000 people could be accommodated. However, not everyone who bought tickets came to the circus.

Mailroom

Mail has been returned to the Circus Report office for:

Jack Stagg

Guy A. Buswell

The mail was marked "Unclaimed." Any help in locating these people or in getting an up-to-date address will be appreciated.



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HE TRIED (Continued)

catcher's hands, spread-eagled and broke his neck.

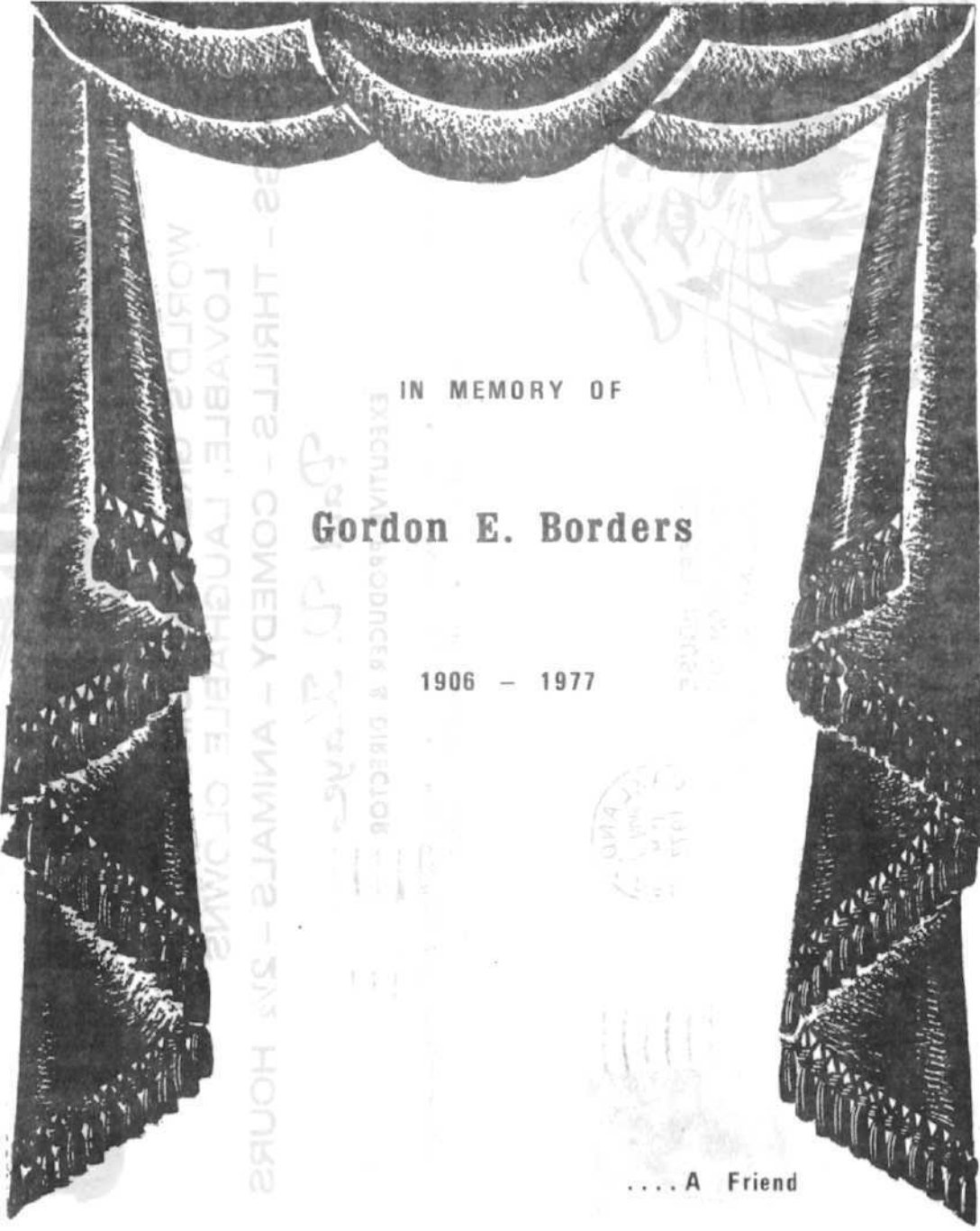
"My father's system was to attempt to learn only a limited number of tricks - say four or five - at one time. We were not permitted to try any trick more than six times in a day. After we had finished that part of our work, we did something else - bending, gymnastics, equestrianism or juggling; for abroad (we were brought up in England) a circus performer must have more strings to his bow than one.

"A bender is a contortionist and bending, like gymnastics, juggling, and equestrian work, is valuable on the trapeze. Equestrian work imparts an idea of speed and distance. Juggling quickens the eye - helps a performer to learn to think and act in the shortest possible time. Bending makes the body supple and graceful, while gymnastics, of course, is the very backbone of the business.

"Care is a trapeze performer's life insurance. The net and other apparatus must be inspected daily, and renewed as it gets old. Either Charles or I usually attend to that. We also weave our nets, or have them woven for us by other trapeze performers. The process, in odd moments, that are to be found around a circus, will sometimes require the better part of a season."

— The End —





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