



8th Year

October 8, 1979

Number 41

# Museum's Wagons Gone

After years of bitter negotiations, Ringling-Barnum has successfully reclaimed ownership of seven circus wagons that have been at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota for some 20 years. The museum reportedly had no title rights saying they owned the wagons and the circus charged the wagons had only been on loan to the museum.

Officials at the museum rescued the wagons about 20 years ago when, along with many other old circus items, they were scheduled to be destroyed. Joseph McKennon, circus author and historian, helped to restore the old wagons, along with many other volunteers. He said "they were just going to burn them up" when the museum rescued them.

In 1972, circus officials decided they wanted the wagons back. It was then that they claimed the wagons were only out on a long-term loan arrangement.

Rather than enter into a long and bitter lawsuit, the two sides made an agreement to sit down and divide up the wagons. The museum was represented by Joe McKennon, while the circus was represented by Chappie Fox.

They took turns at making their selections and the museum had the first choice. As a result they were able to keep the "Five Graces" wagon, seven other wagons and two chariots.

The circus took the Bell Wagon, the Hagenbeck-Wallace Lion's Bride wagon, the Gladiator and Lion wagon, the Anniversary Tableau wagon, Harnessmaker's wagon No. 76, Commissary Wagon No. 24, an unrestored cage

wagon and two clown fire trucks.

Circus attorney Jerry Sowalsky said he was not at liberty to disclose what the circus planned to do with the wagons. However, he did admit that circus officials had discussed using some of the wagons at their Circus World Park in Florida.

Sowalsky said the museum had acquired all the wagons back in

(Continued on Page 11)

## REPORT

### BENTLEY BROS. CIRCUS

(Continued from last week's issue)

The show's performance at Johnstown, Pa. (Sept. 15-16) ran just over two hours with an intermission.

Young Jorge Barreda's outstanding lion act was the curtain raiser. His entire act with eight lions, seven of which are full-maned, is innovative with a touch of bright comedy in a package that is just the right length. Noteworthy is the "dray" of lions fanning in a circle - quite difficult to train. Barreda set the show off to a brisk pace and ringmaster Tommy Bentley maintained that pace throughout.

So much has already been said about the widely acclaimed Joselito high wire act that very little can be added except a professional opinion that this young, unique, original, performer is one of the absolute best ever seen. Highlights include the heart-stopping olympic cartwheel and the original uni-wheel.

A polished performance was handed in by the young Winn Brothers (Mike and John, sometimes Karl) in a criss-cross incline walk. The troupe returns at the show's finale with an aerial motorcycle. Mike Winn also solos as Adolpho with a pyramiding chair balance routine.

Tight wire acts come and go, but Herbie Weber, in his sixties, remains the undisputed king, is in fact not only a legend but a phenomenon. Nimble of foot, the intrepid veteran is an astute showman who always "grabs" the audience. His clever fake fall has become a classic. A charming ingredient in the Los Latino wire act is the continued use of the stylish and traditional white umbrella. Herbie encoored with a sensational foot slide, the last of its kind.

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The Zerbini Riding Act is unusually acrobatic. Mario solos with four somersaults in quick succession in a single circle of the ring, full twister horse to horse, over and under somersault through a hoop (passing his brother horse to horse), and somersault from his brother's shoulders to horse. The horse to horse somersault, usually featured, is a throwaway opening routine.

The brothers appeared earlier with a fast, funny knock-about act. Other comedy was offered by Adele and Gory, gorilla parody, and by a trio of clowns, John MacKay, David Chabira and Bruce Warner, with first a giraffe jargo, followed by a baseball routine and an updated hair growing gag.

The Vasquez have come into their own with an excellent and stunning flying act featuring 14 year old Miguel catching a triple. All are good looking, clean flyers, graceful in the air and on the board. They also make an impressive entrance.

The Smaha's Lipizzan Stallions ring down the first half with their always superior horsemanship, performed with panache. Solo routines are superb, featuring the capriole. Registering well was Chester Cable, foot juggling a 150 lb. table impressive prop. Good act. The Dionne Troupe has added lighted props to a neat balancing act, appeared also with a shoulder perch featuring a free hand balance and one arm stand. Other good numbers included five trapeze acts working simultaneously, ground melange of juggling, teeterboard and balancing, finishing together as all displays should, but rarely do.

The Kaye Hollywood Elephants, presented by the DeWaynes, came on next to closing, working well after their recent tragic accident in June. Omitted because of an overlong program was the maypole opening production and a neck slide-for-life. Mylumba's Baboons, scheduled for the Texas dates, could only play three early spots.

Show Staff: Tommy Bentley, executive director; Charles Clancy, general manager; Harriet Wagner, secretary/

## SPECIAL

### BLOOD FOR CHIMP

In what is believed to be the first of its kind, a graduate student of the University of Oklahoma (Norman) donated blood for a 3 week of chimp at the University's Institute of Primate Studies.

Mei Allen provided his own blood to save the chimp, Zeb, a 2 lb. 2 oz. baby chimp whose blood volume had fallen dangerously low.

## Book

"THE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL, THE ELEPHANT PROBLEM" by John Hanks, published by Mayflower at \$14.95.

This slim volume, despite an unprepossessing dust jacket, tells just about everything that is known about the African elephant. It destroys myths while emphasizing how little still is known about the world's largest land mammal.

## PEOPLE

BOB KEESHAN, TV's Captain Kangaroo, worked as a studio guide and then as Clarabelle the Clown on the Howdy Doody Show before starting his own children's show.

promotions; Jim MacGregor, transportation; Chester Cable, supt.; Miguel Lamas, concessions; Virginia Lee Fenton and Chuck Gomes, music; John MacKay, Bruce Warner, producing clowns; Herbie Weber, floss, and Chuck Clancy, lighting. Promoters are Ray Herrera, Bill Moulton, Tony Chavez, Steve Gill and Tom Page.

... BILLY BARTON

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# SHOW DATES

## Beatty-Cole Circus

Oct. 8-10 Greenville, SC  
11-14 Augusta, Ga.

## Big John Strong's Circus

Oct. 8 Lakeport, Calif.  
9 Fort Bragg  
10 Cloverdale  
11 Ukiah  
12 Napa  
13 Gilroy  
14 Marina

## Carden-Johnson Circus

Oct. 9 Victoria, Texas

## Circus of the Stars (Filming)

Oct. 13-15 Las Vegas, Nev.

## Circus Vargas

to Oct. 11 Decatur, Ga.  
Oct. 12-14 Huntsville, Ala.

## Gil Gray Circus

Oct. 5-21 Dallas, Texas

## Great American Circus

Oct. 8 Rock Springs, Ga.  
9 Calhoun  
11 Forsyth  
12 Vidalia  
13 Swainsboro

— End of the Season —

## Hoxie Bros. Circus

Oct. 8 Pascagoula, Miss.  
9 Pearl River, La.  
10 Springfield  
11 Breaux Bridge  
12 Mamou  
13 Abbeville  
14 New Iberia

## Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

Oct. 9-21 Detroit, Mich.

## Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

to Oct. 14 Denver, Colo.

## Royal Lichtenstein Circus

Oct. 10 Cahokia, Ill.  
11 Edwardsville  
12-13 St. Louis, Mo.

## TNT & Royal Olympic

Oct. 9-13 Bowling Green, Ky

## Texas Shrine Circus

to Oct. 14 Houston, Texas

---- MAGIC ----

## It's Magic Show

Oct. 12-28 Los Angeles, Ca.

## Prf. Miller - Magic Time USA

Oct. 8 Havre, Montana  
10 Sidney  
11 Miles City  
12 Dickinson, N. D.  
14 Aberdeen

## Tom Ogden - Magician

Oct. 12 Fleetwood, Pa.

---- OTHER DATES ----

## Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit

Oct. 9-14 Robertsedale, Ala.

## Century 21 Shows - Red Unit

Oct. 8-14 Meridian, Miss.

## Disco Fever

Oct. 8 Ft. Myers, Fla.  
9 W. Palm Beach  
10 Ft. Pierce  
11 Melbourne  
12 Orlando  
13 Daytona Beach

## James H. Drew Exposition

Oct. 8-13 Monroe, Ga.

## Ethel's Leaping Greyhounds

to Oct. 13 Minneapolis, Minn

## Ice Capades - Cont'l Unit

Oct. 9-10 Billings, Mont.  
12-14 Rapid City, S.D.

## Ice Capades - Eastern Unit

Oct. 9-14 Springfield, Mass.

## Ice Capades - Western Unit

Oct. 10-14 Ft. Worth, Texas

## Los Latinos - Wire Act

Oct. 5-21 Dallas, Texas

## Mighty Thomas Shows

Oct. 9-14 Angleton, Texas

## Royal American Shows

to Oct. 14 Jackson, Miss.

**A BOOK DESTINED  
TO OUTDAZZLE  
THE CIRCUS  
IS COMING!**

## Frank Strout's Animals

Oct. 14 Angola, La.

## Yabba Dabba Doo Show

Oct. 9-14 Louisville, Ky.

## Kaye Hollywood Elephants

Oct. 4-13 Birmingham, Ala.

# WANT

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# Billy Barton

I WAS typing at my desk, thinking what a dull day it was, when a car and Airstream pulled into my driveway. At first I thought someone was lost until I recognized ARDEN and NORBERT. They had encountered CARLA WALENDA and her circus troupe (enroute south to play schools with the show) at a gas station not two miles from my house. They tried to call but found I have an unlisted number, so Arden and Norbert, who'd been at my house many years ago, found their way back to visit. Meanwhile Carla and her troupe continued on.

ARDEN and NORBERT are with the National Company of Holiday On Ice and were traveling from Glen Falls (NY) to Wheeling. Their tour consists of 46 weeks, closing June 1st with a month's engagement at Mexico City. The Mexican date is the only one out of the U. S., other than the Quebec City date already played. They gave me the news from the three ice shows purchased this year by the Felds.

THEIR unit travels on 5 semis, 2 concession semis, 18 privately owned 5th wheels and 5 other private units. The show has a "trailer club" which costs \$10 to join and then a \$1 per date; also \$25 for a special light hook-up. This does not include the price to park at the buildings! Arden observed that if one does not join one gets no lights, no conversation, no parking. Perhaps of the two Arden can do without the "no talking" is not one of them!

FELDS took over all three ice shows (two companies of Holiday plus Ice Follies) when all three were losing millions every year. They are promoting the show as they do Ringling, doing matinees, and have flashed up the units. Designer DON FOOTE was called in to revamp the less than sparkling wardrobe. Felds also insisted the girls wear more glamorous makeups. In this they're right. Audiences don't fork out good money to see the girl or boy next door. They can stay at

home and do that.

BIZ is on the increase owing to the promotion but the skaters are not used to the new grind and are unhappy with a new contract which stipulates 12 shows a week instead of the previous 9. I can't waste sympathy. We circus performers would be overjoyed with such a contract which also includes hospitalization, other benefits and unemployment compensation!

CIRCUS VARGAS is headed east and will play Atlanta in late October. Whether this signals a return visit to Florida is guesswork but at any rate it's the farthest east Cliff has brought his show in nearly two years.

TOMMY HANNEFORD, who took delivery of Circus Girard from GERARD SOULES at Belmont (O) Sept. 1st, is having the equipment refurbished and the show will then be placed in storage until next year. He is expected to add equipment to the show. Indications are he has a "unique idea" to promote it. One should hope so. Two units under the same management are finding it rough going these days, especially with rising expenses. It seems hard enough to keep one unit afloat!

BOB REED, who worked in the old Dobritch office for years and who was for 7 years my business manager, has bought apartment buildings in L. A.; this in addition to his chain of clothing stores!

CLOSEUPS: Globetrotting FRANK CURRY spends more time in airplanes than he does on the ground. Frank, whose promotional activities include such diverse interests as promoting the ROLLING STONES at the Garden, dabbles in the circus as a hobby. He started out his career, believe it or not, as a rodeo clown. . . BILL and TRUDY are back at their farm playing farmers-in-the-dell for a spell. . . GERARD SOULES with Royal Hanneford. . . PEGGY FLEMING guest-starred with Holiday on Ice in NY. . . BILLY POWELL is one of the Ringling

promoters on that unit. . . HUBLER set for an 8 day tour in the east in late Nov. . . MARINELAND at Niagara Falls expanding its facilities. . . SANDY and MICHELE DOBRITCH drove BARBARA MOORE's Cadillac from Utah to deliver it personally at Busch Gardens in Virginia. They caught Circus Vargas out west enroute to Sandy's date at Wayne. . . Business for the Wayne date was off this year. Sponsor changed the dates to conflict with Labor Day and the Michigan State Fair. Odds are they'll reinstate the old play dates next year! . . . I don't know how those rumors got started that BETH is not with the JAMES ZOPPE RIDERS because the rumors are false. . .

Other galloping tidbits: the ZAMPERLAS are in Texas, the ZERBINIS go to Castle next year and the ZOPPE ARABIAN RIDERS set for Hanneford's double dates. . . IAN GARDEN, Jr. debuted with his father's liberty horses at the Columbus Fair. Am told he did a good job. . . AXEL will have the elephants on the Ringling Blue unit next year while BUCKLES and BARBARA return to Circus World. . . Organist STANLEY FRIEDBURG playing dates for Emmett Kelly, Jr. . . Producer ED MIGLEY reportedly prepping a major showcase date preparatory to a long route of collage dates in 1980. I hope so! He has a beautiful show and it should be seen. . . JORGE BARREDA plays the Maine dates next season and the Medinah Temple. . . HERBIE WEBER says he's never going to retire and I believe him - wish I had his energy! . . . Clown RICK LEGG subbed for Clown JOHN MacKAY on the Hanneford Family Circus when Mac Kay fulfilled commitments with the Bentley Bros. . . WALT KING dropped some poundage, looks good. . . PETER LUVAS had a blowdown with his circus in Texas. . . the ARIA bear act stayed over to help sew the tent back together.

(Continued on Page 16)

## SPECIAL

### RETRACING HISTORY

... by Sabu

Two circus elephants, in an American led expedition, recently completed their hazardous journey across the Alps, retracing the march made some 2197 years ago by Hannibal and his army, with 37 elephants.

It was believed to be the first time since 218 B.C. that elephants have made the crossing on foot, although historians do not agree on Hannibal's exact route.

There were fresh loaves of bread waiting for the elephants, Rangoon and Ceylan, as they plodded into the Clarea Valley at an altitude of 3930 ft.

Residents of Giaglone, a mountain village midway between Susa, 40 mi. west of Turin, and the French border welcomed the expedition, which then camped overnight before marching into Susa for an elaborate celebration.

The elephants descended into the valley along a sheer path from the 8150 ft. Col du Clapier, the highest peak on the route. It is on the French-Italian border.

Dante Newman, the circus owner who accompanied his elephants on the trip, told reporters, "If I had known we had to take the elephants up and down such dangerous paths I would never have started."

The group, led by Jack Wheeler, of Los Angeles, started the re-enactment at the French town of Bramans.

Also taking part in the trip were Jacqueline Vial-King, Wheeler's fiancée and a former Folies Bergere dancer who was given three roses by the valley's reception committee; a Los Angeles businessman and Newman's son.

Hannibal, commander of the Carthaginian army and military archival of ancient Rome, set out from Africa, traveled up the Iberian Peninsula and crossed the Alps with his elephants, 20,000 infantrymen and 6000 cavalry to begin a 15 yr. campaign up and down Italy in the Second Punic War. The elephants gave him crucial tactical superiority over the Roman soldiers who seldom had seen the animals before.

## PEOPLE

KEN and BRENDA RINK, the newlyweds who were married under the Circus Vargas big top, have been doing promotion for that show in Beaumont, Texas.

DORIAN BLAKE, illusionist, worked the full run of the Great Danbury Fair at Danbury, Conn., Sept. 29 to Oct. 8th.

TEX MAYNARD and his drums played the Emmett Kelly Circus at the New York State Fair, then Tex and Mary worked the Grotto Circus for George Hubler at Rochester, NY, on Sept. 15th.

DICK FLINT, CHS vice president, will be working for the Smithsonian Institute, concentrating on circus and amusement exhibits.

ALBERT and JEANETTE RIX and their bears are working the Shrine dates in Texas. Also working those dates are the KNEISLEY DUO (Bill and Donna Bannister).

The difficulties encountered by Newman's trained elephants raised many new questions concerning the routes taken by Wheeler and Hannibal.

(In 1957, an English engineer named John Hoyte borrowed Jumbo, a female Indian elephant from the zoo at Turin, Italy, to follow Hannibal's route thru the Alps. In Hoyte's party were two English girls, a veterinarian, a Burmese student and an Italian mahout.

The expedition tried Clapier Pass first because John Hoyte thought it tallied best to the early histories of the event. They had to turn back because of landslides that had narrowed the paths so that the elephant could not fit on them.

Hoyte then decided to negotiate the Mount Cenis route which Napoleon had used to invade Italy. The expedition had no trouble with this route and completed the trip without incident.

The expedition started at Montmellian and finished up at Susa).

## REPORT

### CITY SEEKS MONEY

City officials at Niagara Falls, (NY) and an attorney for the Imperial Lipizzan Stallions, Ltd., are meeting in an effort to reach an agreement about money owed the city on an unfulfilled contract. The city reportedly is seeking \$10,000 in unpaid income from the show's summer engagement in that city.

The horse show opened in late July and closed about a month later due to poor business.

According to terms of the contract lease, the show owners were to pay the city \$1,000 per week for 10 weeks, plus 5% of the show's gross income in excess of \$100,000.

The horse show had considered the summer performances, presented in a temporary arena, as a possible prelude to a permanent downtown Niagara Falls location. It had been proposed that a \$10 million permanent home could be built there. According to news reports this possibility still exists.

Because the show was unable to open for the July 4th holiday as planned, the original lease was rewritten to amend those dates. A corporation lawyer said the amended lease was never returned to his office. However, city officials said, "the oral agreement is sufficient for the city to take action."

## Miscellaneous

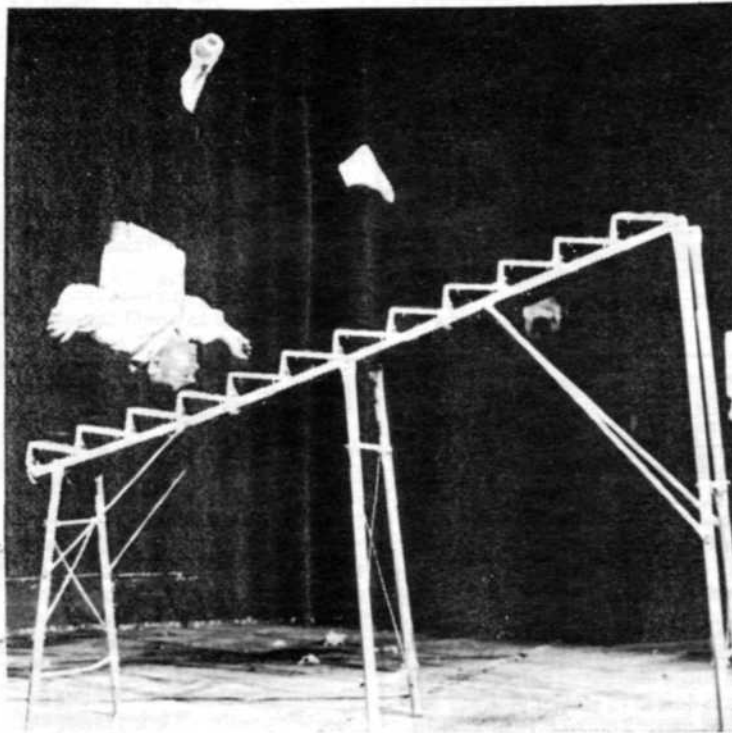
The Dunes Hotel in Las Vegas has shut down its showroom so work can start on a new \$15 million facility. The new room will include the area that is now being used to store scenery and other equipment.

It will take about 18 months to complete the construction work. An all new stage show is already underway in preparation for the new show room opening late next year.



# Kaichi Namba

by JIM PARKER



There are many wonderful people in the circus world; and it is with deep regret that we learn one of these fine performers has passed on to the Big Lot.

Very few youngsters in the business nowadays have probably heard the name of Kaichi Namba, as he belongs to the "Golden Era" of the circus. It is out of respect for him and those of his era, those very few left, that this small tribute is written.

Kaichi was an orphan in Japan and was adopted by the Namba troupe as was the custom in those days among show people, and thus became a member of a large Japanese acrobatic/tumbling group at the age of seven.

In the early 1900's the troupe came to America. During the Chicago World Fair, Kaichi witnessed a man going down a set of steps on his head and the idea occurred to him that if a per-

son could go down steps on his head then it would be possible for a person to go up steps on his head. Whenever, he could, he practiced, continuing for three years, until he broke away from the troupe and presented his act on his own, as the only man in the world who could go up and down steps on his head.

The shows that Kaichi has been on reads like a history book: Gollmar, Hagenbeck-Wallace, Sells Floto, Tom Mix, Sparks, Ringling-Barnum and many more. Much of the time Kaichi appeared with large tumbling or acrobatic troupes and because of his small size he usually was the top mounter in the pyramid.

Kaichi had three shows that were very close to him - Tom Mix, Sparks under Charlie Sparks and Ringling-Barnum. Just prior to the beginning of World War II, Kaichi was appearing at the

Winter Garden in Berlin and while there he failed to rise and salute with a Heil Hitler upon the entry of German soldiers/officers. They approached him in an angry manner and Kaichi told me that he put on his politest Japanese smile and bowed deeply from the waist and pretended in typical "hooligan" manner that he did not understand a word that was being said. Fortunately, for him, they believed him, not realizing that this little Japanese gentleman was completely pro-American.

Like so many things that happen and which we cannot account for, Kaichi was interned during the War in a concentration camp in Australia. Because of his English speaking ability he soon became an interpreter for the powers that be and as a result he was given the full run of the camp.

It was here that he met his lovely wife Haru. She is also Japanese, was born and raised in Indonesia and was interned in Australia during the war. She does not have a show business background and little Kaichi finally won her over, with many gifts of American chewing gum.

After the war Kaichi returned to the U. S. and continued to be a performer, appearing for many seasons as a center ring attraction with Ringling-Barnum. As the years passed and age came upon him, Kaichi was no longer the center ring feature, but he worked with Paul Jung in clown alley. Kaichi never put on grease paint but was the man behind the scenes and worked clown props, including working the fire in the old firehouse gag. Upon reaching social security age, and much to the surprise of his family, Kaichi returned to his beloved Japan and lived near Yokohama. During the years after the war, Kaichi's wife returned to Japan and frequently Kaichi would make trips to see her, always returning to the U.S. and the Ringling show.

Haru and her three sons lived very frugal for they always felt that at any time Kaichi would send for them as they all wanted to come to the U. S. become citizens and settle down in

(Continued on Page 16)

## REPORT

### CIRCUS TIME IN CHILE

During the month of September three circuses played in Santiago, the capital city of Chile. The shows were playing there in conjunction with the nation's Independence Day celebration. The three shows were:

**LAS AGUILAS HUMANAS** - said to be the oldest circus in Latin America and currently celebrating its 40th anniversary. It is owned by Sergio Venturino and while in Santiago played in a building, but otherwise plays in a tent.

Hugo Venturino has a show without wild animals, which he says people can see on television. "Shows with animals are old-fashioned," he adds. Today's children, he says, are into the age of "Superman."

Some of the acts appearing with his circus are: The Lancelot Link Chimps,

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**ITALIANO TIANNI CIRCUS** - Owned by Hugo Venturino, a brother of the above mentioned Sergio. This circus is now in its second year and operates under a big top. Their advertising carries a lot of American type layouts and designs.

**THE GREAT FRANKFORT CIRCUS** - This show was new to the area and at the time this report was written almost nothing was known about the circus.

## PEOPLE

**ALBERT LUCAS**, juggler; **JEAN-PIERRE ROMANO**, clown and **PELUZA**, clown, are featured with the western unit of Ice Capades. The show's musical director is **JOHN MOLINARI**.

**DAR ROBINSON**, stuntman, leaped off the Canadian Pacific Tower at Toronto last month as part of a stunt for an upcoming movie. He free-fell from the 1,150 ft. level of the tower for six seconds before gliding down with a parachute.

## SPECIAL

A parade of the world's finest collection of old circus wagons has been scheduled for the streets of Baraboo, Wisc., next summer. The announcement was made late last month by Circus World Museum officials who said it would be the first major parade of the museum's wagons since it last participated in the annual July 4 parade at Milwaukee.

Museum director William Schultz expects the parade will bring something like 50,000 people to Baraboo. The parade will be held on Saturday, July 5th, with a time and route to be announced later.

Plans for the parade were confirmed when the Wisconsin Historical Society Board of Curators agreed to the idea. Some \$50,000 has been budgeted for the parade. Work is now underway in an effort to get teams of horses for each of the old circus wagons.



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# Buckles the Clown

by JANIE S. JENKINS

Feature writer for the Vindicator  
(Reprinted from the Youngstown  
Daily Vindicator, Youngstown, Oh.,  
Sept. 21, 1979)

Imagine being only 18 years old and already having achieved your dream! That's the enviable accomplishment of Dan Buckley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Buckley, 210 Grandview Ave., New Castle, Pa., who, since last March has been living his dream - as Buckles the Clown of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus.

Back in Clown Alley in the nick of time to make-up for the Thursday afternoon performance - he'd been "home" for his mom's spaghetti and meatballs and a visit to McConnells Mills State Park - Dan tells us how he made his longtime dream a reality.

"Red Skelton has always been my idol," Dan confides, applying the first layer of paint to his face, "and I've always done a little clowning around - I like to make people laugh and be happy.

"I auditioned when the circus was here last year but by winter I hadn't heard anything so I tracked down the 'Boss Clown', Jimmy James at Columbus, Ga., and telephoned him.

"I guess he decided I was really serious and sent me an application - and two weeks later, on March 26, I was on my way to Panama City, Fla., to join the circus!"

For the first few days of his new career, Dan learned how to apply his new face and performed in "cover-ups" - "like being the rear end of a horse costume" - but it didn't take him long to become a seasoned performer and to work out his own routines as well as working with the other clowns.

Was he scared or nervous that first time on his own? "Heck no - I was just excited!"

Dan knows he'll never make a fortune being a clown - but it's what he wants to do and he's good at what he's do-

ing because he's happy doing it. And even at 18 - he'll be 19, Oct. 8 - he's learned that money isn't the answer to everything. So well does Dan like his work he's already signed up for next year.



**BUCKLES THE CLOWN**

The youngest of seven children, Dan is a 1978 graduate of Union High School. "He was on the football and baseball teams but he spent most of his time on the bench and I couldn't figure out why he 'made' the teams," his mother said.

"He said it was because he kept everyone happy with his clowning! He's always been a cheerful boy - never any trouble - and if this is what he wants, it's fine with us. He could be doing a lot worse," she said.

Ironically, Mrs. Buckley never really liked circuses but she's revising her opinions now that Dan is part of one. Dan has been able to see his "real" family two other times since the season began, once when the circus was playing Akron and again when it was in Washington, Pa. At first, he admits, he was a little homesick - he'd never been away from home before - but he was so warmly welcomed by his new family in the circus that the twinges soon disappeared.

Dan - or Buckles - can be seen several times during each session of the circus which is at Southern Park Mall thru Sunday, and even though his friends might not recognize him he's still the

## PEOPLE

**JEAN and CATARINA MICHON** left Los Angeles, Oct. 5th, flying to Italy where he will train a group of eleven tigers for an Italian circus.

**BOBBY HOCHUM** flew in from London to join Circus Vargas at Houston and is now presenting his cloud swing act in the show's performance.

**BRIDGET BALLANTINE**, aerialist at Circus Circus in Las Vegas, has closed there and has returned to Florida.

**CLIFF VARGAS** recently returned to the States after visiting several European shows including: Circus Merano, Circus Althoff, Circus Knie, Circus Arnardo, Circus Berny, Circus Krone and the Blackpool Tower Circus.

**HARRY BAKER**, juggler, would enjoy hearing from friends. You can write him at: 1829 No. Center St., Stockton, Calif.

**JIM SWAFFORD** is flying to Houston for a vacation and a visit to the Texas Shrine Circus. Enroute home he plans to visit the set of the "Circus of the Stars" show in Las Vegas.

**BENZINE, Mr. GWINN and SQUEEKY**, Southern California clowns, presented clown and magic shows for children of Burbank, Calif., last month in recognition of "The Year of The Child."

**DR. DAVID REID**, of Lebanon, Ore. was featured in a full page story with pictures, in the Albany (Ore.) Democrat on Sept. 24th. The article told about Dr. Reid's interest in the circus and of his many friends under the big top.

**ETHEL JENNIER** and her Leaping Greyhounds taped a segment of the Canadian TV show "Circus" then worked dates in both Canada and the U. S., as well as appearing on the Bozo TV Show in Chicago.

same happy clown he's always been - only better and funnier and happier.

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## Introducing

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... by Art "Doc" Miller

Not many performers started out as professionals as early as Forrest Jarvis. While still in grade school, he used to bicycle to the surrounding West Virginia coal mining hamlets and there would "sell" his act for a supper time magic show.

When playing these dates he carried his magic equipment in his handle bar basket. These nickel and dime performances earned him enough money to later purchase professional tricks and

a berth on several tent shows, including the famous Spaul Family Show of Ohio fame.

This was good schooling and soon he was appearing in the skits as a regular actor. He even had a few stints with Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Majestic show boat. From there he went on to spend summers with Sam Dock and the theatrical seasons on the Gus Sun Vaudeville circuit.

Having saved enough money from this venture he blossomed out with a sizable stage show using a dozen or more performers. This popular show became very well known all over the eastern states.

Thanks to his thrifty wife, Louise, they owned out-right eighteen hick town week-end movie houses, only to have the over night popularity of TV completely kill this hoped-for retirement side line.

During the years the Ashland Oil Co., presented employee shows over a wide area of states, he was in charge of the tented affairs and the entertainment was strictly a magic show.

Later he owned large illusion side

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Copy of "The White Tops" No. 3 for May-June 1977. Write stating price and condition.

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shows on Penn Premier, Kirland, etc., and with vaudeville and stage business nothing but history, he handled bookings and press. His last show being the Thomas Joyland outfit.

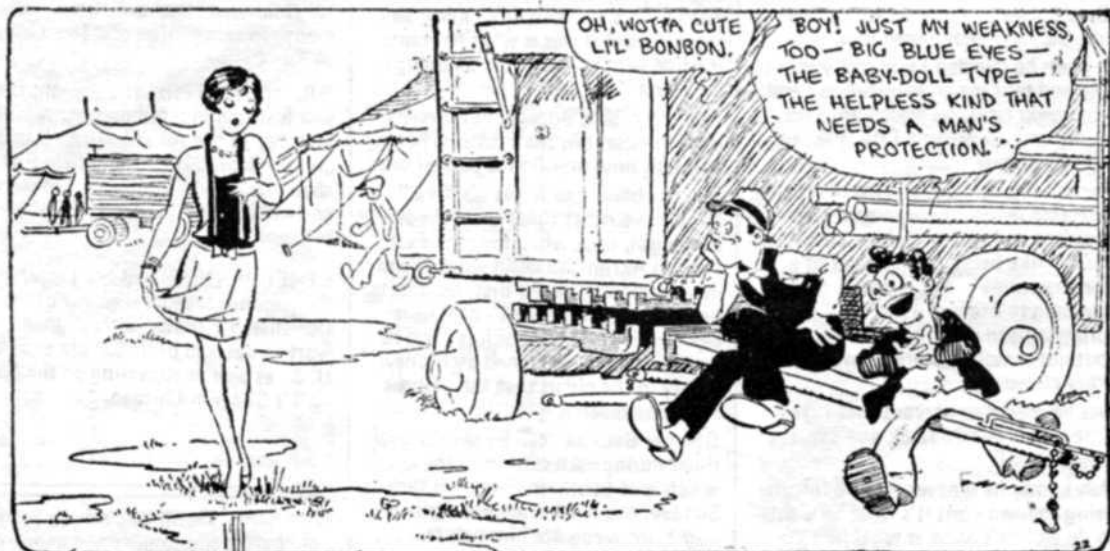
Rather a heart-break phone call, while he lay in a hospital, was word from Blackstone to come to New York and work as a team on an entirely new type of big illusion show.

That heart attack and the passing of his most loyal wife, ended his trouping career. He now resides in quiet retirement in Huntington, W. Va., with his son Bob, who is also a performer.

## Miscellaneous

The Pickle Family Circus gave four performances in Oakland, Calif., two on Sept. 29 and two on Sept. 30th.

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## NAMES in the NEWS

REV. AUSTIN MILES has completed work on 12 radio spot ads for the Davis Furniture Co., in which he does seven voices.

DAVE CAESAR, known as "Backdoor Dave" on the Ringling Red Unit, has been the subject of several national news stories since the show played California. Dave was a former booker for rock groups in the music industry.

RUTH and ELEK SEBESTYN will be doing the "Circus of Stars" show this month, followed by dates in Oregon after which they go to Circo Atayde in Mexico for 14 weeks.

## CIRCUS WAGONS

the 1950's under an "indefinite term loan."

Not all of the wagons loaned to the museum were in poor condition, he said. "There was some right on both sides of the misunderstanding," he added.

"The settlement reflected that. Everybody felt it was a fair compromise."

"There was a misunderstanding that developed over that period with respect to who owned the wagons," he said.

Under terms of the settlement the museum has gained title to all the remaining wagons that were given to it.

## PEOPLE

JOHN WHITFIELD, former talent agent and a Sarasota accountant, reports he is spending his second season in a working partnership managing food concessions for SHIRLEY BARTON on the Murphy Bros. Midway. Mrs. Barton is the wife of BUZ BARTON, well known as the "ice man" who deals in quality jewelry for members of the entertainment industry.

Upon his return to Sarasota in late November, John will resume his entertainment taxation practice and accounting services for the circus industry. Inquiries can reach him at: P. O. Box 2633, Sarasota, Fla.

## By Crane



# REWARD

for information of the whereabouts of

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**SPECIAL****AUTHOR'S TRIP**

Circus author and critic David Lewis Hammarstrom departed on Sept. 30 for the Soviet Union, where he will begin research for a book about the Moscow State Circus. The celebrated artistry of the Russian Circus performers, their dazzling artistic innovations and their rise to international prominence, are the subjects to be explored.

Official invitation to make the trip was extended by Mr. A. Kolevatov, General Manager of Soviet Circuses. Moscow's Institute of Fine Arts will lend additional assistance. Hammarstrom will visit circus companies and interview key personnel in the cities of Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Odessa. He also expects to tour the Moscow Circus School.

Meanwhile, Hammarstrom's first book, "Behind the Big Top" is now in the final preparation stages at A. S. Barnes for publication next March. The tome takes a gutsy behind-the-scenes look at famous American circus personalities and the struggles they have endured to keep the show on the road. Text will be lavishly illustrated with over three hundred photographs. Noted circus author and publicist F. Beverly Kelley penned the foreward.

**Acts**

A special circus-themed show was produced by Bill Kourmpates for the Innisbrook Country Club, at Tarpon Springs, Fla. on Sept. 25th.

Circus acts featured in the show were Jo Ann Jennier, aerialist; Pedro Morales, foot juggling; Danny Chapman with Hogan and a midget, two dogs; Bob Jerome (Sad Sack Clown); plus Make-up Artists for Waitresses and Waiters in clown make-up. Clown Alfredo Landon also appeared in the evening program.

**In Memoriam**

**HARRY OTTO GRASSELLE** (98), retired magician and juggler, died at Kansas City, Mo. on Aug. 21st. His show business career started as a very young boy, working in a circus as an aerialist. Later his magic and juggling acts were featured on vaudeville circuits and in 1978 he was elected to the Magic Museum in Hollywood. Survivors include his wife, Gwen and a son, Howard.

Important circus pieces bearing Hammarstrom's by-line have appeared in show journals throughout the world. He is a contributor to such publications as Variety and The Christian Science Monitor. In recent years he held the position of National Press Representative for James Bros. Circus and later for the George Matthews Great London Circus.

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**REPORT****LALLA ROOKH GROTTO CIRCUS**

..... by Bill Galloway

The 1979 Lalla Rookh Grotto Circus was produced for the fourth year by George Hubler. The best attendance was for the 2 p.m. show on Saturday, Sept. 15th, with somewhat smaller crowds for the 4 and 8 p.m. performances on the one day stand.

Visitors at the show included CHS Vice President Dick Flint and CFA Frank Howard.

Show line-up: Clown come-in; Overture; Announcements; Acrobats by the Charles (Gutis); Web, Miss Diana (Yoxall); Clowns with Mechanical Man gag; One finger stand by Karen Nyce; Miss Donna Bannister, single trapeze; Clowns with the Magic Knot; Albert and Jeanette Rix, bears; Intermission; Clowns with chair gag; Illusions presented by Roy Huston; The Clowns with Flip Flop; The Gutis Family, comedy; Clowns and the balloon; The Kneisley Duo, aerial cradle.

Staff: George Hubler, producer/announcer; Dennie Pinson, Jr., props; Tex Maynard, drums; Marcie Maynard, organ.

Clown Alley consisted of: Bill Vaughn and Bubba Hastings.

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**Acts**

Appearing with the Hanneford Aerial Thrill Circus, in a show produced by Glenn Parkins, at the Minnesota Fair were:

The Vashek Duo, The Franconi Duo, Les Castros, the Flying Gaonas and the Crater Crash Rocket.

The show's bandleader was Keith Kilinger, with organist Wanda Darlington and drummer Steve Lockwood. Ernie McLean was both vocalist and ringmaster for the show.

**HOTLINE**

San Francisco's musical-magic show "Grand Illusion" has closed due to a lack of business.

have my size!"

Most hatters used to stock men's hats from size 6¾ thru 7¾. That was Blackstone's gimmick. He had a bushy head of hair and a very large head size. He wore size 8!

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**BOB BERKY** and **FRED GARVER** are teaching a class in clowning and circus feats at North Turner, Maine.

**YANA VASHEK**, the 4½ year old daughter of the Great Vashek, rides the aerial motorcycle with her dad and stands on the cycle without the use of any safety devices.

**CHRISSIE** the Clown was featured in a special *Question and Answer* column of the *Detroit Free Press* on July 31st.

**JOHNNY CLINE** was pictured in a recent issue of *Enquirer*, showing him loading up the elephants after a Canadian show date.

**HAL HAVILAND SEZ...**

**HARRY BLACKSTONE**, founder of the Blackstone Magic Show, was a fun loving showman in the days when the best local merchants had businesses flourishing around the downtown theatres where he appeared as the star of his own traveling extravaganza.

If there was a men's hat shop nearby he'd drop in and usually needed no introduction. The request usually was: "Do us a trick."

And, Harry would usually comply with an excellent routine of card tricks finishing with the proclamation: "I'll buy a hat, any hat, if you

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### KAICHI NAMBA (Continued)

this country. However, Kaichi was torn between his love for America and the old, strong Japanese tradition of returning to his Fatherland to live out his remaining years.

During the early part of the 1970's I was stationed near where Kaichi lived and would see him almost every Sunday, during a two year period. His home was high on a hill in Kamooka (near Yokohama) and unlike most Japanese homes, which are unpainted, Kaichi had his home painted a bright Ringling Red.

I had anticipated a traditional Japanese meal the first time I went to see him and much to my surprise a little bit of America had been transplanted to the heart of Japan, as Kaichi remained very western in his ideas and had his house furnished typically western style, except for the boys, whose bedrooms were traditional Japanese. Also, fried chicken, potato salad, sweet corn and strictly American food was featured - a real disappointment at

### BILLY BARTON (Continued)

**NEWSPRINT:** The KLEMENTIS scored a full-page article in the Gainesville, Fla. Sunday Sun in late August. Article used three large color photos. The Klementis are at Harrahs in Lake Tahoe. The Washington Sunday Star featured a story on URSULA BOTTCHEER entitled "Polar Bears In Florida?"

WHEN Hurricane David swept up the east coast Al and SUE DAWLEY were fortunate that only their boat-house was flooded and a boat sunk. The storm did no damage to the house although downtown Savannah was hit by a lot of water and wind damage. Al returns to the Polack dates next season and will make Rochester for M&M.

BY the time this column sees print JANICE ARIA will have had her baby. I knew about the pregnancy at its inception but deliberately withheld the news for fear it might hamper their bookings.

Luckily Janice is a tall girl and with clever costuming concealed her condition. We kept that secret right up until the very end, didn't we, Janice!

SEE you down the road, luv's.

first until I convinced Haru that I did enjoy Japanese food.

Despite the many miles of ocean that

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separated Kaichi from his long life with American circuses (over 40 yrs.) he remained extremely interested in his American friends and each visit was queried about those he loved and had worked with.

Up until May of this year, when he first became ill, he was writing to me each month. He always asked about Harold Ronk, Joey Hodgini, Doc Henderson, Lloyd Morgan, Tuffy Genders Duane Thorpe, Bob Dover, Jeanie Carson, Lou Jacobs, Dennis Stevens, Bobby Kay and Antonette Concello.

A letter this week from Haru Namba informed me that the current Ringling Red Unit program I sent him had arrived just prior to his hospitalization and that he was called to the Big Lot on Sept. 5, 1979. He was pleased to read what few names were still there in the RBBB program, from the life he chose, knew and loved so well.

Kaichi, your friends will never forget you - and we are all happy that your life has touched ours.

**NANCY GIORDANO (Continued)**

"They gave me such an applause, it made me cry."

Circus life was good again.

Then, about seven weeks ago, she was at home in Escondido on a break and working out in a local gym when tragedy struck again.

"I was only about 5 feet off the ground and was working out on the rings when my old leg injury acted up and (the leg) just gave out on me. I went down straight on my head."

It was back into the hospital, this time with a crushed pelvis. Giordano was in traction for a time, but now the only sign of injury is a pin holding her knee together. She should be out in a few days.

Will she begin the hard climb back to the high wire?

"I don't know this time. If it was my decision alone, I would say yes in a minute. But I have to think about my parents now. They have asked me to give it up.

"What worries me most is not that I may eventually kill myself doing this, which is bad enough in itself, but worse is that I might permanently injure myself and then my parents would be stuck with caring for me for the rest of their lives."

"I'll make up my mind for sure in a few weeks or so."

**FLASH**

**SPARKY**, Don Washburn, clown with the Big John Strong Circus, was seriously injured in an auto accident at Crescent City, Calif., last month. His condition is still listed as "serious" and he has been moved to the United General Hospital at Sedro-Wooley, Wash.

The accident was the result of a local young man falling asleep while driving. His car ran head-on into the Big John Strong Circus sound truck, in which Sparky was a passenger. The driver escaped without serious injuries.

The sound truck and office wagon it was pulling were a total loss.

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**PEOPLE**

**BILLY MARTIN**, Mc/juggler, will be with the Magic Holiday Fantasy during Nov. and Dec. He will also make the 1980 winter dates for **JAMES M. COLE**, where in addition to serving as ringmaster he will do his rola bola and juggling acts.

**LARRY DAVIS**, **SMOKEY JONES**, **ODDY DOODY**, **JACK BENNETT** and **ARMIDA SMITH**'s folks were recent visitors at the Los Angeles County Fair.

**ANETA VARGAS**, wire act, is working the Texas Shrine dates after a two year run in Reno and Las Vegas.

**In Memoriam**

**TED ELKORT**, a tax accountant in New York who handled tax returns for a great many show people, died in New York City early in August. A son survives.

**WILLIAM NIPPO** (77) a retired circus performer and clown, died Aug. 29th at Gulfport, Miss. His wife Bernice survives.

**W. E. (Shotgun) PAGE**, former circus owner, visited the Great American Circus last month and then caught Carson & Barnes early this month.

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by  
DON  
MARCKS

The Post Office says we must start complying with their new rules and regulations covering the mailing of First Class Mail. Since Circus Report has also been classified as "loose mail" it means we now must also comply with those additional regulations.

Because of this you will note some major changes in the size and layout of the paper, starting next week. These changes will bring the paper within the Postal regulations, still allowing us to mail it for 15c each week.

There will, from time-to-time, be larger issues, as in the past, and they will require a 28c stamp on each issue. But in the main the copies will continue to be mailed for 15c each.

We would like to expand Circus Report to a full 8½" x 11" page size and that is certainly preferable rather than making a cut in its present size.

To achieve that format a big investment would be required for the purchase of new equipment and at the moment it seems doubtful that we could manage the financial aspects of new and larger loans, etc.

For the present, at least, we would like to consider the smaller page size as only a temporary thing - something that will keep Circus Report going and sort of tide us over until some positive plans can be worked out.

We hope you will bear with us during these trying times and that you will continue to support the paper.

We appreciate your interest and will need both that and your prayers in the coming months. That's all that keeps Circus Report going.

## BOOK

LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF  
ADAM BARDY

This writer has just received a gift copy of the book "The Circus Life and Adventures of Adam Bardy" a truly unique and interesting book. One of the best I have read.

Old-timers will recall Adam and his equally handsome son, out in front selling concessions with all of the big named circuses. Perhaps you remember him in his prize fighting days as Jimmy Brit.

This is a thrill and exciting adventure story of Adam's circus life which got started before he was 10, when on a Saturday in 1915, he ran away and joined the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show.

From there he went on to live with gypsy friends, then with the circus during the Roarin' 20s, and followed by a fighting career.

Adam and a friend found their way into Kentucky and there became moonshine mountaineers, then he became a bootlegger, an operation that was shut down by police, and from his gypsy friends he learned the art of fortune telling, reading a person's past, present or future.

## REPORT

MAGIC SHOW

The "Kim Dickson Magic Show" produced by Big John Strong, will open for a fall/winter tour at San Antonio, Texas, on Oct. 21st. Big John will be with the show, joining it immediately after his tent show closes for the season.

In addition to Kim Dickson, magician, the show will feature, Chester Cable, foot juggler, Wini McKay, aerialist, Don Young, clown, Phil and Paul, musicians Ron Perry, wire/juggler, Jay Evans, juggler and Sandy Strong, birds.

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## PEOPLE

THE BRAUNS, western acts, have returned to their Southern California home after a long season with the Big John Strong Circus.

MIGUELITO and ROBIN, aerial acts, have joined the Big John Strong Circus for the remainder of this season's tour.

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