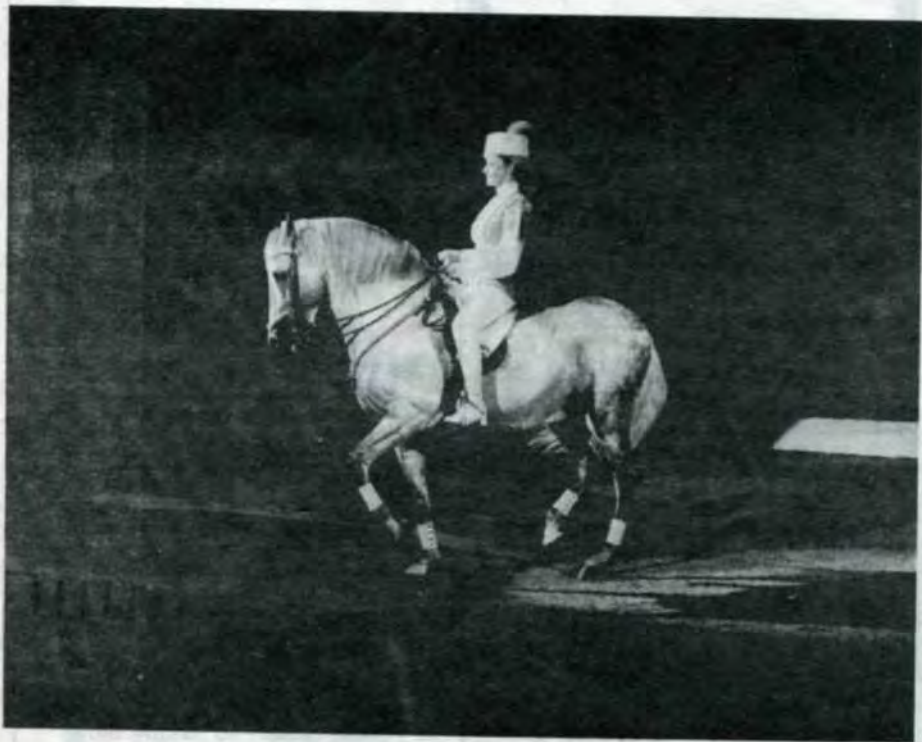


THE CIRCUS REPORT

Number 32

August 10, 1981

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Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus

Aug. 10-11 Washington, Pa
12-13 Morgant'n, W. Va
14-15 Fairmount
16-17 Beckley

Carden Int'l Circus

Aug 14 Carlsbad, N.M.
15-16 Roswell

Carson & Barnes Circus

Aug 10 Lima, Ohio
11 Van Wert
12 Tipton, Ind.
13 Frankfort
14 Danville, Ill.
15 Dwight

Circus Arts Troupe

Aug 12-15 Frackville, Pa

Hanneford Family Circus

Aug 13-22 Kentucky Fair

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Aug 10 Richmond, Ind.
11 Franklin, Ohio
12 Portland, Ind.
13 Celino, Ohio
14 Decatur, Ind.
15 Findlay, Ohio
16 Ann Arbor, Mich.

Make-A-Circus

Aug 11 Hayward, Calif.
13 San Jose
14 East Palo Alto

Pickle Family Circus

Aug 11-12 Willits, Calif.
15-16 Fort Bragg

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Aug 11-16 Dallas, Texas

Ringling-Barnum - Red

to Aug 17 Anaheim, Calif

Royal Crown Circus

Aug 13-16 Kansas City, Kans

Royal Imperial Circus

Aug 11-12 Loveland, Colo
14-15 Ft. Collins

Royal Palace Circus

Aug 12-15 Chattanooga,
Tenn.

Swan Bros. Circus

Aug 10-22 Stockton, Cal.

Wenatchee Youth Circus

Aug 16 Portland, Oregon
(This date was changed after having been set for July 18th).

---- MAGIC ----

Abbott's Get-Together

Aug 12-15 Colon, Mich.

Doug Henning

to Aug 17 Las Vegas, Nev.

Krystali

Aug 10-12 Chattanooga, Tenn
13-16 Huntsville, Ala.

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA

Aug 10 Washington, Iowa
11 Centerville
13 Independence
15 Iowa Falls
16 Clear Lake

Felix Snipes

Aug 14-15 Duncan, Okla

Starfire

Aug 11-13 Pueblo, Colo

Mark Sweet

Aug 12-22 Louisville, Ky

---- OTHER DATES ----

Burr's Fun-O-Rama

Aug 9-15 Lewiston, Me.

Disney World on Ice

to Aug 16 New York, NY

James H. Drew Exposition

Aug 10-15 Somerset, Ky

Poco Plus . .

to Sep 20 Des Moines, Iowa

Scott's Medicine Show

Aug 10 Cochrane, Ont.
11 New Liskeard
13 Chapleau
15 Blind River
16 Espanola

Tip Top Shows - Blue

Aug 12-16 Wilmot, Wisc.

Tip Top Shows - Green

Aug 12-16 Mauston, Wisc.

Whizzer the Clown

Aug 13 Louisville, Ohio

NOTE . . .

A typo appeared in a birth announcement which was printed in CR on July 7th.

Noah Gardiner Maas weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 20 in. long at birth.

REPORT

FRANZEN BROS. CIRCUS

BY KEN HOLEHOUSE

Franzen Bros. Circus is continuing its summer trek through small town middle America. We happened upon them in Montello, Wisc., and again the following day in Berlin. The sight of the brightly striped orange and blue tent and the newly painted trucks and wagons quickened our heartbeat as we strolled onto the friendly lot of this marvelous show.

Franzen Bros. displays in the single ring European tradition and the folks who are seeing the show this summer are viewing a tightly knit, well-paced potpourri of circus acts - all different and all circus.

Whether it be the extraordinary liberty drill, the huge elephant who rolls across the ring, balancing her tonnage completely on a huge ball, Tonto the Wonder Horse who at least pretends to be smarter than his trainer and never misses even the tricky counting questions, or the clown who tells us how ugly we are, we love this show.

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And the audience with us laugh and roar and love it too. The enthusiasm and starry-eyed excitement generated is tremendous. No one sits on his hands here. Since every seat is so close to the action, we virtually become a part of the show. And the lively circus music and rhythm help to draw us in.

Some changes we noted since reviewing this show in May are very positive. The newly painted wagons - bright murals in a colorful circus motif - really liven up the lot. The show moves even better than it did before. Freddie has added some new bits to his clowning business. Zajieck has added a new illusion to his magic act and appears Miss Tina for her climb to the web. And the large circus menagerie is growing larger every day. The concession stand is also being efficiently run.

Overall, Franzen is continuing the tradition of excellence that makes this one of the best tent shows touring America today.

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SPECIAL

MUSEUM FEATURES ALZANAS

From September through December the Great Alzanas, world renowned high wire daredevils will be featured in special exhibits at the P. T. Barnum Museum in Bridgeport, Conn.



The exhibit will offer a look at the many aspects of the Great Alzana career, paying tribute to the famed Alzanas.

Harold Alzana loved to terrify audiences when he attempted the treacherous forward and backward leap over a doubled-up jump rope, often missing to intensify the suspense. One of the items to be exhibited is the actual rope used by him during the

1950's with "The Greatest Show on Earth."

Many fascinating photographs and costumes from the Alzana's long and varied career will also be on view during the exhibition.

The Alzana's were featured in Cecil B. De Mille's movie, "The Greatest Show on Earth" and the exhibit will include a number of news clippings that earned Harold the reputation of being "accident prone". He was seriously injured by falls from the wire no less than five times during his 12 years with Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey.

One beautiful color litho shows the "Alzanas" crossing the high wire on a bicycle piloted by Harold with his sisters Hilda and Elsie and his wife Minnie hanging below the cycle on the trapeze. The same litho also shows Harold fighting his way up a wire inclined at a 45 degree angle.

His spine-chilling presentation began as the announcer proclaimed "Matchless, alone in their high hazardous sphere on the lofty wire, the world renowned high wire Alzanas with Harold Alzana 'who skips rope where angels fear to tread'." And then Harold would fight his way up the inclined wire before performing high above the heads of the circus crowd.

In Memoriam

KATHRYN BURNS (88), mother of Kay (Kayletta) Gordon, died on July 27th. She traveled for many years with her daughter who did a high act, appearing with Zema-ter, Siebrand and numerous fairs.



MAGIC LIMITED - LLOYD E. JONES - 4064 39TH AVE., OAKLAND, CA 94619

BY LLOYD E. JONES

Recent co-host on the Mike Douglas show, David Copperfield, wound up his engagement at the Las Vegas Hilton and then was followed by Doug Henning, working there Aug. 3 to 17th. Meanwhile illusions are being built for Henning's 'Merlin' show set to open on Broadway early in 1982.

Speaking of Broadway, the Woody Allen play 'The Floating Light Bulb' had magic furnished by Tannen's. Have read little about the show, but hear they had trouble with the trick, too!

Magic tricks will be featured on the back of Lucky Charms cereal. Some 5,000,000 boxes will have coupons for additional magic.

Hot rumor has it that Hank Moorehouse, the new president of the Society of American Magicians will be moving to Colon, Mch. to take over as manager of Abbott's.

Incidentally, inflation has forced the cancellation of the annual Magic Show in Lon-

don. This star studded show will certainly be missed.

Bob Stull, noted magic inventor, former shop owner and well known in California club activities passed away in June at the age of 88. He was a long-time member of the S.A.M. and was honored by the Academy of Magical Arts and Sciences in '81. The Stull Watch and Barrel Escape were both featured on It's Magic show this year.

Bob Fillman, vent and mentalist student and creator, died of Hodgkins disease in June at a Dallas hospital. Only 57, he spent many years in Australia and our west coast. He was a close friend of the Arthur Ford of Madame Houdini expose fame.

Don Tanner was another casualty in June and he was only 47. A good friend of the late U. F. Grant, he was said to be working on a collection of the magic that that great dealer created when he died.

PEOPLE

JAMES 'Jimbo' HUNSINGER, from Philadelphia, Pa., and a Ringling Clown College graduate of 1980, joined the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit in Los Angeles last month.

RON and PAM PERRY (The Rianos Duo) introduced their new two wire slack wire act at the St. Louis Shrine Circus.

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REPORT

CLOWN CAPADES

BY BOB SWANEY

To the delight of hundreds of youngsters, Big John Strong's 1981 edition of 'Clown Capades' rollicked and frolicked through two fast-paced hours at the Omaha (Nebr) Music Hall on July 20th.

Producing clown Bob (Spiff) Owen and his cohorts, Tom (Popcorn) Sink, Maddie (Etcetera) Sink, Phil (Flippo) Kavanaugh, and Rosa-Marie (Chryssi) Douglass, cavorted through a host of hilarious and precisely executed routines.

Their safe cracking gag which closed the show was superb. Flippo and Chryssi also demonstrated their versatility with a flawless juggling and unicycle performance, and Popcorn's 'Cultural' contribution as Stradivario the violinist really got the kids going.

It is always a pleasure to see this refreshing group perform together since they so obviously enjoy their work and are each masters of their craft.

Also featured on the show were the Weller family, risley and rola bola (moppets Kelly and Shannon are two of the cutest

and most talented performers to grace the Music Hall stage). Illusionist Dorian Blake & Co., (an exciting showman in addition to being a personable guy), Cainan's Canines and 'Kidd' Cainan, low wire. Curtis Cainan (remember that name) filled in on short notice, without missing a beat, for the Albertis, clown and poodles, who had the misfortune to breakdown enroute and thus miss the Omaha date.

Maestro Neil Armstrong, along with percussionist Jim Millerm provided their unique blend of musical backdrops. M. C. Al Leonard moved the show along and added a new and delightful dimension with his vocals, and finally, overseeing this fine production from the wings was the ubiquitous and congenial Big John. This was one of his best and we're fortunate they visited our town.

Miscellaneous

Some 26 TV personalities will be appearing in "The Fifth Annual Circus of the Stars" which will be featured on CBS-TV the evening of Aug. 20th.



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PEOPLE

SYLVESTER and **BARBARA BRAUN** will be working in the Western Jamboree at Knott's Berry Farm, Aug. 21-Sept. 7th. Just recently they appeared at the Anaheim Convention Center, the L. A. Hilton and several shopping centers.

BILL KAY will MC the Mid-west Shrine Convention banquet in Madison, Wisc., Aug. 14.

EMMETT KELLY, Jr., who now makes his home in Tombstone, Ariz., was featured in July 17th edition of that city's newspaper called "The Tombstone Epitaph."

TEMPLE, the Magician, **SKILES & HENDERSON**, comedians and **GLENN YARBOUGH**, singer, worked a July 26th show date for the *Marin County Sheriff's Association in San Rafael, Calif.*

JOHNNIE ROMANO, dancer; **THRILLS ON WHEELS**, roller skaters; **JOHN E.**, vocalist; **CHARLIE AMARAL**, magician; **KEN KARTER**, ventriloquist; **CHARLIE RAINO**, jug-



THANK YOU

Hoxie, Great American and the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus personnel for their purchase of bull hooks.

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gler; Miss **GERMAINE BROOKS**, vocalist, and **PINKY LEE**, TV star, worked an "Old Time Vaudeville" show date in Santa Cruz last month. Musical director for the show was **PERRY JOHNSON**.

Winning Points

RINGLING-BARNUM - Blue Unit

BY RENÉ DORSEY

Waiting in line for an hour and a half at the box office was no fun. But you can bet your stakes that it was worth it to see The Greatest Show on Earth.

RBBB played Lake Charles, La., on July 14-15 for two shows each day. And it was to my understanding that they played to a full house for all four performances.

Among the most outstanding acts were Duo Dobritch (perch pole); The Silagi (teeterboard); Charly Baumann (tigers) and of course, Elvin Bale with his death defying Wheel of Death. Although I've seen them

before, Johnny Zoppe and his lovely wife added the beauty into the spec (theme: The Circus Galaxy).

Special credit goes to Peter Pitofsky for his clown routines. He's got to be one of the best clowns I've seen in a long time.

The whole show was fantastic, especially the Elephant Calypso presented by the Gaudier Family. Whenever bulls perform a great lump in my throat starts to form and tears come to my eyes, especially for the long mount.

I was extremely impressed with the entire show, as you will be when you visit the RB BB Blue Unit. It was worth standing in line for an hour and a half.

By the way . . . don't worry about your stakes . . . I don't need them.

REPORT

ROYAL HANNEFORD CIRCUS

BY CLARENCE HASTINGS

The Rotary Club of Marshall, Mich., brought the Royal Hanneford Circus to town on July 25th. They presented two shows - 1 and 6 p. m. in the Middle School gym.

At eleven o'clock Ina the elephant celebrated her 25th birthday by taking a walk to the Circus-Circus Restaurant where she received a huge birthday cake and where crowds of people watched her munch away on the cake.

The show line-up was:

Senor Rai, welcoming children of all ages, also stilt walking by clown Michael Wright; Tigers presented by Bill Golden; Wally & Dolly, clowns; The Lisner Duo; Zoppe's ponies; Tacky Tillie and plate spinning, clown Michael Wright; Miss Danuska, acrobatics and balancing routines; Douglas and Sabu, the uncaged leopard; The Riding Hannefords; Intermission.

Dolly, the world's strongest clown; Mongo, the almost human gorilla; Little Nellie Hanneford and Mark Karoly, dressage; the Hanneford elephants; Grand Finale.

SPECIAL

A TV COMMERCIAL

A new Pepsi TV commercial featuring a full circus presentation was recently completed in Hollywood, Calif. The filming required a full two weeks of planning, with a week of actual shooting. Bob Yerkes served as the



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circus coordinator, stunt double and stunt coordinator.

Featured in the filming were: Aerialist flyer Robert Cortez, catcher Bob Yerkes, ringmaster, Parley Baer, stilt walker, Steve La Porte, the Fergus Troupe, trampoline act, Ken and Betty Willer, jugglers, Roger Zoppe's riding act, Bridget Ballantine, trapeze, Howard Johnson, elephants, Paula Christ, high dive, the Peterson Liberty horses, Otto Berosini, uncaged leopard, Richard Beard, fire eater and Diane Nufer, working in the elephant number.

Eight girls worked web at the same time that Bridget was performing and they were: Karin Price, Leslie Aletter, Niki Dantine, Gina Schleicher, Gale Baer, Beth Nufer, Sally Ashton and Alican Klockman.

Clowns working in the film were Mark Yerkes, Andrea Bell, Chris Bricker and son, Jim Briscoe, Tom Harris, Fred Levine and Doug Ashton.

The circus tent was rented from Cliff Mosley.

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REPORT

CIRCUS VARIETY SHOW

BY DAVID E. REID

The Lane County Peace Officers Association presented a Circus Variety Show at the Convention Center of the Lane County fair grounds on July 25-26 (Oregon).

The show was produced by Caravan Attractions and presented in 10 acts. Music was furnished by drums and accordion and they did a good job of cutting the show, which was MC'd by Stan Kramien.

The program was as follows:

Narnaby, outstanding juggling performance, Magic by Kramien, sword box, doves, hankerchiefs, etc., Willy Keo, comedy diving act, Freddy the Cockatoo, of TV fame, The Willettys, Ken and Betty, with Ken doing his full routine including his outstanding one finger stand (act newly costumed and props newly painted), Bandit the TV dog star (same trainer who handled Freddy) both acts were well received,

The Agostinos, one of the better acrobatic

acts and the foot to head stand while making a costume change was one of the longest I have seen. The strength displayed by Frank in the Roman Chariot routine was fantastic.

Kramien again presented some excellent illusions. He is a real showman, The McLennan Dogs, two well trained Australian sheep dogs. Nice wardrobe and props in good condition, The Wheelers, a fine marimba act climaxed by the sisters doing a musical puppet act.

This was a strong show, moved fast and was well received by the first matinee crowd. Six performances were scheduled and the show ran about 90 minutes. It opened with a pitch of a magic book and then an overture.

PEOPLE

VICTOR HUNSBERGER worked at the fair in Edmonton this past month where he was presenting a 125 ft. high fall.

MICHAEL McCARTHY, clown, has been signed to appear at the upcoming Los Angeles, Calif., Fair.

Show Report

CIRCUS VARGAS

BY KEN HOLEHOUSE

Circus Vargas is rolling through the Mid-west playing medium sized cities and doing land-slide business. Mitch Hoffman and I found the show on a shopping mall lot in Appleton, Wisc and we sat in a packed tent to watch the 8 p. m. performance.

The Circus on Parade spec which opened last year's show is placed at the end of the first half this year. The show opens with the flashy tiger act of Wade Burck. Burck's cats have been well trained to perform right on cue - there wasn't a reluctant performer in the whole group. Whether jumping through flaming hoops or rolling over or whatever their handsome trainer demanded, they obeyed.

The use of hydraulic pedestals added much to the fast pacing of the routine because Burck spent no time at all stacking or moving equipment around the cage. Wade is a master showman and, ala another circus superstar, marches out of the cage at the end of his display with a tiger draped over his shoulders. When he set the tiger down on a high pedestal barely six feet away from the center ring box seats, the crowd went wild.

Crowd favorites like the Anastosini Brothers, Rex Williams' elephants, two rings of the Flying Espanas (one set made the triple when we saw the show), Cimon's Chimps, the Franconi and Armon Duo, and the Kneisleys made the two and a half hour show fly by all too quickly.

The Osmani Sisters not only caught our attention in center ring, but were also featured

on a live television program on the circus we watched produced the following noon.

Credit is due Clifford Vargas for the master showman he is - bringing such a wonderland of circus talent to towns across America.

And where did he find Vince Carmen?

This magician literally explodes into the ring and has girls appearing and disappearing all over the tent - from trapeze to trapeze. In a great illusion, one assistant disappears and is instantly replaced by a huge tiger. What a show stopper!

At first I missed the Carlos Twins and some of the other great talent from last year, but this show has its superstars, too, and is not to be missed.

Two things caught my critical eye and ear, though. The programs being pitched were last year's and do not give an accurate rundown of acts or featured performers and personnel. And the band - as loud and as brassy as it is, and I love loud brassy music - seemed more at home at a jazz festival. Maybe I'm old fashioned, but where is the circus in what they play?

Otherwise, the show was very professional and entertaining. The spec's placement at the end of the first half gave the audience a chance to cheer on their favorite performers. Wade Burck's flashy opening was the best way to start the show.

Try to see this show. Although Circus Vargas will miss the Chicago area this year and many of last year's cities as well, it's worth driving out of your way to see.

REPORT

SHOWMAN WORKS IN THE DARK

BY KEVIN MENARD

Roger DuBois, daredevil, in the great tradition of the circus, performed in make shift lighting after the fire that destroyed the Billy Burr power plant was put out.

DuBois said, "these people came to see a show and I'm going to give them a show even if I have to pass out flashlights." Roger DuBois who performs a swaypole death act 110 ft. above the ground insisted on going on.

Makeshift light and 200 ft. of cord running across the midway to the only power got Roger enough light to run the spotlight that is necessary for the evening show at 9:30, the sound and music, Roger's Fantasy in Light and the fireworks were run off on batteries.

Three Circus Cheers to a professional who goes on when all looks the worst in the Grand Circus Tradition,

THE SHOW MUST GO ON . . .

PEOPLE

THE CAMARILLO FAMILY, western ropers from Oakdale, Calif., were featured on the TV Show 'SFO' the evening of July 31st.

THE CARLOS TWINS are playing with Circo Tihany in Montevideo, Uruguay, where it is the winter season, but they report the tent is heated.

THE HENNEBERRY FAMILY recently worked a date for a celebration in Drakesville, Iowa, which was followed by a two day engagement in the Chicago area.

BABBLES & BUBBLES, magic act, worked at the Sonoma County Fair in Santa Rosa, Calif. July 27 - Aug. 8th.

RED SKELTON celebrated his 68th birthday last month while working at the Nugget Casino in Sparks, Nev.

ALYSUN SEACAT, who worked on Circus Vargas last year, is presently working at Marine World near San Francisco.

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Report

CARDEN INT'L CIRCUS

BY PAT BISSONETTE

The Red Unit of Larry Carden's International Circus played two performances at the Sports Arena in St. Cloud, Minn., July 20-21. There have been some changes since the CR report of July 13th.

Ringmaster Cleo Plunkett opened with a coloring book pitch, followed by Joe Via's 8 lion act. Miss Gloria, head balance; Vozza's birds; Alberto Zoppe, horse and uncaged lion with Indian Princess Pagano (Carla); the Funny Cuccillo's trampoline; Les Duvan's juggling, sword-dagger balance (Hans Klose and Cissy Connors); The Ventura Duo hanging perch; Duvans, inclined rolling globe act; Clown camera gag ending with a photo of Muppet Miss Piggy; Alberto, Sandy and Carla Zoppe's Riding Academy with audience participation using mechanics; a 15 minute intermission.

The second half opened with the Marquez Family flyers from Mexico City sporting new two-toned green wardrobe; horsemanship presented by Janie and her steed Gemini; Safari themed, Adele & Gory, is the Gorilla purse snatcher, stooge this time is a 'photographer'; Four clowns do a balloon sharp shooter production; the Zoppe Family roll out a circus style wagon full of dogs, birds, chickens, etc., and a lone horse, David & Cissy Connors pep it up with rola bola, juggling and unicycle riding; Return of the clowns with heavy busty bunch of Wa-

sherwomen; Last is Lil' Cuccillo in immaculate white working Carden's huge grey pachyderms, Vickie, Judy and Jerry.

Clowns are Giovanni (Nino) Zoppe, Tony (Cho Cho) La Monica, Al King and John Sholes. Concessions were handled by Randy Armstrong.

Acts have flashy colorful wardrobe amply sequined that sparkled under the lights. All tractors and trailers are freshly painted with the new title.

Evening shows had full houses, sponsored by the local Shrine.

PEOPLE

HOWARD HUNTINGTON, one of the founders and a life member of the Omaha (Neb) Magical Society, recently lectured to the group on his 60 years in magic. For decades he traveled as 'Huntington the Great' performing his elegant magic in schools and in halls across the country. He is and was well acquainted with many of the great names in magic and presented a first hand account of the history of magic and of the Omaha Assembly.

DAZE BRISTOL, 103, rode in Cheyenne's Frontier Days parade last month as its grand marshal. She played the organ on the Dazee's Dance Hall Float in the parade for 40 years, until illness forced her to cancel out in 1967. This time she rode in a 1924 Packard at the head of the parade.

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His Address is:

BARRY MITCHELL

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