



4th Year

November 10, 1975

Number 45

## \$15,000 COMPROMISE REACHED

A suit that was turned down four times, for lack of prosecution, finally ended last month when the plaintiff was awarded \$15,000 for alleged damages. Named in the original suit was the Paul Miller Circus, operators of a Texas shopping center and all stores within the center.

The suit, filed in late 1962, alleged that the youth George W. Harris, had been trampled by an elephant during a circus performance (Nov. 3, 1962) and asked for \$375,000 in damages. Harris, who was then 8 years old, reportedly received head injuries that led to permanent brain damage. According to affidavits

### New Show Preps

As was reported earlier rights to the use of the King Bros. title have been acquired by Pete Cristiani, who will operate the King Bros. & Cristiani Combined Circus in 1976. The show will be managed by Pete Cristiani, with promotions handled by Floyd King, while J. C.

(Continued on Page 15)

filed in the case Harris spent two years in high school, but failed to perform at high school level. He now works as a stock boy for an El Paso department store and continues to live with his parents.

Action against all the defendants was dismissed in 1969, twice in 1972 and once early this year.

(Continued on Page 15)

## THEY COMPLAIN

Two writers recently used their newspaper columns to complain about the way circuses acted in their respective cities.

In Chicago, writer Jack Mabley complained about the parade offered by RBBB on State St. The parade was not up to what had been expected, he said, and I had some "uncharitable thoughts" about the circus.

However, Mabley reported, it was a mix-up because the President was coming and Mayor Dailey wanted the streets cleared. It was "a fiasco", he said, and someone should complain of the blocking off of streets each time a dignitary comes to town - why don't they use an helicopter!

At the same time, writer Joan Quarm, of El Paso, complained that after being invited to review the local Shrine Circus none of the ticket sellers could find her tickets and nobody cared about her problem.

"We did not pay the tiny fee and go in, however, for a very simple reason. Criticism is work. It must be respected as such and accorded its place, or it becomes invalid. Professional people always understand this. Amateurs must learn to do so."

Instead she went to a local theatre and saw the film

Join the Holiday Spirit and send a Greeting to your friends by Circus Report.



## Show Crowds

Recent reports on business at the Super Dome in New Orleans included attendance figures for Ringling-Barnum's Blue Unit's engagement at the facility.

The circus drew some 26,000 people for its opening night performance. This was followed on the second night with 34,000 people at the circus.

For the show's Saturday matinee they drew 43,000 with 41,000 attending that evening. On Sunday the matinee drew some 47,000 people, while the evening show had an audience of 36,000 people.

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"Give Em Hell Harry." Her column ended with a glowing review of this film - something everyone should plan to see.

# Blackpool Tower Circus

..by JACK  
NIBLETT

The Blackpool Tower Circus ended its very successful six month season on Oct. 11th, with a real "burster." For the past few years there have been critical comments by fans and others, that there were not enough animal acts on the bill. This year the Tower Company made certain there would be no such complaints.

Mary Chipperfield, the English woman circus super-star, presented her group of lionesses, tigers and leopards; rode an impeccable Spanish high school horse and a Palomino fire-jumping stallion; showed her big and little horse act; then partnered with Franz Althoof, Jr. presented the Knie liberty horses; and brought along her five African elephants plus her camels, llamas and zebra, which were presented by Franz.

The Tower Company claimed this represented the largest and most varied group of animals ever presented at this circus. Mary even shared the billing with popular Charlie Caroli, the 35 year resident clown with the circus, and still as lively and musically adept as ever.

Helen Piderman presented the delightful Sicilian donkey carts, and the Shetland ponies with their monkey jockeys.

The American flying act, the Marilees (with Tony Steele) made a welcome return visit; the Bertinis cycling act, the Chy Bao Guy Chinese act, Kris Kreemo, a real "juggler's juggler," and Fattini on his high swaying lamp post made up a splendid bill.

Run-in clowns Desmond and Marks kept up the pace of the

show, and even the ring grooms contributed a thrilling act, being divided into two teams competing to see which team could get its half of the big cage up first. (There was to be a cash prize and silver cup for the winners at the end of the season)

As is customary at the Tower, for the last act the ring sank, to be filled with water, fountains and colored lights. As this work was being carried out the Skating Rolwoods worked on a pedastal in the center.

I was able to chat with my old friend Norman Barrett, one of the two ringmasters at the Tower, who confirmed the success of this year's show, and how it had beaten the heat wave, which had almost knocked some indoor shows out of business.

## PEOPLE

SIMONE FINNER and THE FLYING VIENNAS were featured in the Nov. 1975 issue of "In The Know" magazine.

## Miscellaneous

The Enquirer of Oct. 28th has a full page of pictures of Hollywood stars at RBBB's opening in Los Angeles.

Hubert Castle Circus will open its 1976 tour at Grand Rapids, Mich. on Jan. 22nd.

RBBB's Red Unit held clown auditions at its Chicago date.

Jetts Petting Zoo is featured in the Oct./Nov. 1975 issue of Modern Maturity magazine, includes full color photos.

A life-sized animated circus with figures carved in Germany has been making some dates in the New England states.

Ziggy, the Brookfield (Ill.) Zoo elephant died last month of old age. He was originally owned by Flo Ziegfeld.

Several doves have taken up permanent residence in the Super Dome at New Orleans and they frequently inspected the acts during RBBB performances there.

The Sun Herald of Berea, Ohio, for Sept. 25th, had two pages devoted to clowns on the George-Matthews Circus.

Western Reserve magazine's for Sept./Oct. 1975 featured a history of Mills Bros. Circus, written by circus fan and writer Murray Powers.

## IN MEMORIAM

# Susan Chimpanzee Lemke

Passed Away on October 25, 1975  
At 31 years of age

GONE BUT WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN



JOE LEMKE and MARVIN VARNER

2807 Peachtree Road  
Mesquite, Texas - 75149

## CIRCUS SENTINEL

.....by BILLY BARTON

Who's on First? Either IRIS KEPPO got in the way of BABY INA (she's an elephant) or vice-versa. At any rate IRIS is now on crutches with a broken foot, but INA is dancing nimbly on all four. (Iris is recovering, however.)

Speaking of losing your head or, in this case, hair: SHARON WARD lost her wig during an aerial spin recently and, upon reaching terra-firma, wailed: "Where's my hair! Where's my hair!" to which a youngster in the first row piped: "Here it is, lady!" as he waved said hair for all the world to see.

BERTINI's in Baltimore for Clyde Bros.....COMMANCHEROS on Royal Hanneford..... COOKE's Comedy Car to Garden in '76.... ditto TINO WALLEDA and wife, OLINKA.....Prop boss DWIGHT HANSON (Hanneford) bought concession manager RON MORRIS' Airstream. He's with Garden.... Clown Alley's WALLY WALLBOY and CHERYL abandoned motel life to become trailerites. Their Laundromat number, incidentally, is more of a comedy act than a clown gag - Boffos all the way!

SAM POLACK's string of Shrine dates starts with Little Rock in April, includes Columbia (SC) and Toledo (Ohio)....Late November brings the annual PAL Circus to San Francisco's Cow Palace and also heralds Rudy's Xmas tour.....JOHN STRONG will have three Xmas units touring... NORBU to Mexico with Holiday on Ice.....HOXIE TUCKER enlarging his spec to include several floats.....Is it true that the Lewis Bros. Circus will be sidetracked in favor of a Grand Ole Opry type show?

ART CONCELLO planning a show in South America.....TOMMY HANNEFORD took delivery on a fourth elephant in Worcester (Mass.).....SENSATIONAL PARKER tragedy marked the third this season - BETTINA, and MIKE FOSSETT.....RUMPY, the Clown, wrote and staged the "book" for the current Garden Magic Opus.

Royal Hanneford unit into Rochester for GEORGE HUBLER, will do likewise for George's Shrine date in Buffalo next spring.

Hats off to the great SALLY RAND still struttin' her stuff at "Old Chicago" Amusement complex. Sally is now a living legend glamour queen like Swanson, Deitrich, La West and all others of her era. Keep at it, Sweetheart and God Bless!

Acts at the Fresno (Calif) Fair for STU McCLELLAND included: Ma Ho Pin, Reynosa Bros., Commancheros, Stardusters, Col. Seabright, Martinos, comedian Rolly Hammond and featured Dave  
(Continued on Page 12)

# new animal regulations

Officials of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service have quietly started notifying animal owners that they must secure an "exhibitor" license if they plan to continue their line of work.

According to a legal decision reached last month, all those who own animals for display purposes and meet the definition of "exhibitor" must obtain a license. The definition of "exhibitor" as defined in the Animal Welfare Act applies to virtually every animal owner in the country, regardless if he owns exotic or domestic animals.

Filing fees for a license amount to \$5.00 for those who own from 1 to 5 animals, and \$10.00 for those who own 6 to 26 animals. Information and applications for the license are available from the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, APHIS Office in the capital city of each state. Failure to have a license with your animals is subject to severe fines and/or jail terms.

It has also been reported that Congress has now specified that while some animals are to be placed on the "threatened" list rather than the "endangered" list, all animals will be under the controls established for "endangered" species.

## Letters

You certainly do a fine job. The surprising feature is that not once has CR been late and only one copy was lost in the past three years - an extraordinary record.

..... Dave Davis

## ROUTES

### Beatty-Cole Circus

Nov. 10 Hallondale, Fla.  
11 Plantation  
12 Homestead  
13-14 Miami  
15-16 Deerfield Beach

### Hanneford Family Circus

Nov. 11 Brenham, Texas  
13-16 Beaumont

### Lions Club Circus

Nov. 15-16 Allentown, Pa.

### Polack Bros. Circus

Nov. 13-14 Fayetteville, NC  
15-16 Raleigh

### Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

to Nov. 16 Cleveland, Ohio

### Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

to Nov. 16 Nassau, L.I., N.Y.

### Royal Hanneford Circus

Oct. 11 High Point, N.C.  
12 Winston-Salem  
13 Asheville  
15-16 Mobile, Ala.

### Soviet Circus

Nov. 13-16 Greensboro, N.C.

### John Strong Circus

Nov. 10-15 Torrance, Calif.

# Making Plans for 1976

Although 1975 was a good season, John Hall, of Hoxie Bros. Circus, reports that profits were down. "There is no question about it," Hall told CR, "inflation is hurting everyone with its resulting high costs."

After a tour that covered 14,000 miles for Hoxie Bros. and 12,000 miles for Lewis Bros., both shows are now safely quartered at the circus facilities in Miami (Fla.). In fact work has already been started for next year, with two new semis and several animals already received.

Hall says that this was the worst year he has seen as far as bad weather is concerned. On one day in Ohio strong winds knocked down every top on the lot, except for the big top. Both the side show and big top on Lewis Bros. were blown down several times during the year.

Hoxie Bros. operated with almost no mechanical problems and had no serious labor problem. On the other hand, Lewis Bros. had a definite labor problem and frequent mechanical trouble, plus the fact there were several wrecks one foggy day in the Kentucky mountains.

"Next year," says Hall, "we will not use the Lewis Bros. title. However, that show will be enlarged and then renamed "Hoxie's Great American Circus". The show will be using a round top, like Hoxie has, but smaller in size."

HOOT HILTON and his horse "Hi Chaparell" were featured on the Royal Ranch Wild West Circus this past season.

## PEOPLE

AL DAWLEY, ringmaster, is no longer associated with the Hanneford Family Circus and has returned to his home in Florida.

GENE RANDOW will be the producing clown on Hubert Castle's Circus for 1976.

TIM HOLST, RBBB ringmaster, and his wife plan to vacation in Hawaii this winter.

HAROLD DUNN currently has his miniature circus displayed at a shopping center about 7 miles north of Orlando, Fla.

ROLAND STINSON (Pogo, the Clown) and CAROLE TROUGH, of Akron, Ohio, plan to be married in January and will tour together in 1976.

PAUL CRABTREE, stage performer and former Musical Director for an amusement park in Nashville, has joined Ringling-Barnum and will produce shows for Circus World Park in Florida

# Show Producer Named

The U.S.A. National Circus was recently named to produce the annual San Francisco Police Activities League Circus at the Cow Palace on Nov. 22-23. This will be the third year that the U.S.A. National Circus has produced the weekend circus.

Among the feature acts signed to appear at the Cow Palace are: Karl Winn Duo, aerial motorcycle; the Great London elephants, Pauncho Magana and his African lions; Steve McPeak, high wire; David and Irena, aerial cradle and a 450 foot aerial death-walk performed by Karl Winn.

The show will also feature a "Salute to Hollywood's Animal Stars" production number with such Warner Bros. cartoon characters as Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Petunia Pig, Sylvester the Cat, Foghorn chicken and Yosemite Sam, all furnished by Mariott's "Great America" park, at Santa Clara, Calif. Other features will include TV animal stars of

"Dr. Doolittle," "Gentle Ben", and "Born Free" provided by Marine World-Africa USA.

Simone Finner, USA National Circus show producer and booker, reports the Quinn-Martin Productions plan to film a "Streets of San Francisco" TV show during the circus presentation. Both Karl Malden and Michael Douglas, stars of the TV series, will be appearing in the circus program.

# PEOPLE

MIKE LETTNER is being trained to handle WOLFGANG HOLZMAIR lion act, so the latter can return to Europe to manage a circus in France.

EDDIE HOWE, former circus press agent, has been doing P.R. work for Columbia Studio films in the Southwestern states.

HAROLD RONK, RBBB ringmaster, got confused about an early matinee in New Orleans and showed up late to find the circus had started without him.

CLARK McDERMOTT plans to spend the holiday season in the San Francisco area, visiting his family and friends.

SAL CONDITO, RBBB Red Unit

American Freedom Train  
Nov. 11-16 Portland, Oregon

Coco's Musical Comix  
Nov. 15 Marion, Ind.

Globetrotters  
Nov. 11 Saginaw, Mich.

Kramien's Magic Capades  
Nov. 11 Marysville, Wash.  
13 Anacortes  
16 Duncan, B.C.

Longhorn Rodeo  
Nov. 14-16 Hampton Rds, Va.

Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show  
Nov. 11 Duluth, Minn.  
13-14 Green Bay, Wisc.

assistant prop boss, is back on the job after spending time in a San Diego hospital caused by a diabetic coma.



# SYLVIA CRACKS the WHIP!

AN ADVERTISEMENT  
FOR POSTUM

WHERE'S SYLVIA? - C  
THERE SHE IS - TALKING  
TO THAT ANIMAL  
TRAINER AGAIN!

THE'S NO  
ANIMAL TRAINER!  
WHY, IT TOOK  
THOSE LIONS THREE  
WEEKS TO TEACH  
HIM THE ACT!!

BUT, SID - I WAS  
JUST ASKING HIM FOR  
SOME ADVICE ABOUT  
YOU! I'M WORRIED  
ABOUT THE WAY  
YOU'VE BEEN FEELING  
LATELY!

WELL, IF YOU  
THINK YOU'RE MAKING  
ME FEEL ANY BETTER  
BY TALKING TO THAT  
ANIMAL TRAINER ALL  
THE TIME, YOU'RE  
CRAZY!

LET'S  
GO GIVE  
HIM SOME  
ADVICE - ON  
HOW TO MIND  
HIS OWN  
BUSINESS!!

(Continued Next Week)

## Show Stars

The Spanish Riding School joined the Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show at Greenville, S.C., according to show producer Gary Lashinsky. The Spanish group was originally scheduled to become a part of the show in January 1976, but because of the present political situation in Spain it was decided that the group would be brought to the U.S. at once.

The Spanish Riding School consists of some of the world's most beautiful horses and famous riders, who will be an important part of the Lipizzan Show during its 1976 tour. Other fea-

## Clown College

Plans for the opening of "The Southwest Clown College" were announced last week by Don Basham, a clown and aerialist. The school opens late this month with a campus in Fort Worth. A full course in clowning, makeup, props and related subjects is planned.

Those interested should contact: Don Basham, 3308 Bright St., Fort Worth, Texas - 76119. Phone: (817) 534-5704.

tures for the coming year will include a Bi-centennial theme, plus such famous riders as Albert Ostermaier and Edith Evans.

# - CIRCUS -

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# ORIGINAL LEMKE CHIMP DIES



Pictured above in a recent pose is Joe Lemke and his chimpanzee "Susan" with a friend.

Susan, the Dean of the Joe Lemke's College of Chimps died on Oct. 25th, after a brief illness caused by kidney failure. The remarkable animal, owned by Joe Lemke, was 31 years old and helped to launch both their careers.

During her lifetime Susan entertained countless thousands of people. Her first public appearance was on the Badger State Show, followed by a tour with the Collins Shows and the Ramey United Carnival. She has appeared on most of the major circuses

in the U.S. and Canada, and was featured on such TV shows as Ed Sullivan, Super Circus and The Big Top Show.

She performed at Circus Circus in Las Vegas, made a non-smoking commercial for the American Cancer Society and for the past three years has appeared with the American Continental Circus. On that show Joe handled the color books, while his partner of 24 years, Marvin Varner, handled the electrical chores.

Joe reports that a new chimp is being trained to replace Susan.



GEORGE MYERS, ballet master on the Sells-Floto Circus, season of 1924, is shown here surrounded by ballet girls. Left to right, standing: Mickey King, Annette Pine; Belle McNutt, now Mrs. Belle Leeper and living in Los Angeles; Mildred King, Golden Caress, Billie Barnardo, George Myers, Madeline Schlesinger, Shirley DeRey, Cecil Fortune, Florence LeRue and Hope Caprice. From the left, seated, are Cyse O'Dell, Polly Bendar, Nellie Russell, Billie Whitbeck, Rose Nimmo, Irene Russell, "Tex" Pares and Marguerite Wilson.

### CIRCUS SENTINEL (Continued)

Merrifield's helicopter trapeze

We hope legal action is brought against an unscrupulous promoter whose bouncing checks have been seriously hampering a certain family tent show with nasty repercussions on other innocent parties as well.

Who says all those family sitcoms on TV are unrealistic? Real-life counterparts of a new series "Three for the Road" can be found touring the country in a mobile unit with the Royal Hanneford Circus.....the mama-less MAAS FAMILY. Dad Jerry plays the organ, son Bryan plays the drums, son David is prepping

### Married

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph (Jelly) Duke, of Seagoville, Texas, have announced the marriage of their youngest daughter, Margaret Amelia Duke to Wade Burck, of Hillsboro, N. D., on Sept. 11th in Dallas, Texas.

The newly married couple are spending the winter months in North Dakota.

a bike act, and all three are mothered and watched over by their Uncle Bill who also clown - sounds just like the old William Demerest role in "My Three Sons." doesn't it?

Well, like the MAAS bunch, see you down the road.

# Shriners Talk Circus

A wide variety of subjects were discussed at the Oct. 24-25 meeting of Shrine temples who sponsor circuses. The meeting, held at Indianapolis (Ind.), at the Murat Temple, drew some 100 delegates from 42 temples.

By the end of the session it was agreed that a regular newsletter would be published for participating temples. This would keep temples up-to-date on various fund-raising activities, news, tips and operations of circuses.

## Freak Mishap

A freak accident that spilled three circus cages onto U.S. Highway 60 was reported by the Missouri Highway Patrol, at Fisk, on Oct. 28th.

According to the report two patrolmen were directing traffic around a stalled grain truck. A Circus Vargas truck, enroute to Springfield (Mo.) and driven by Paul Buchella, hit the rear end of a car. The car in turn struck office Billy Joe Kincade and tossed him 113 feet.

The circus unit struck another truck, jackknifed and dumped three cages of wild animals on the highway. None of the animals escaped.

Officer Kincade suffered only bruises and no broken bones. The driver of the car, Mrs. Jerline Jones, suffered a broken pelvis and internal injuries.

Thanks for reading Circus Report today. Won't you tell a friend that he ought to be reading the paper too?

Chairman Fred Morrison, of Detroit, urged the temples to establish a permanent circus chairman, as a means of capitalizing on experience. This is an important factor, he said, for the continued sponsorship of circuses, which keeps some temples going and greatly aids the Shrine hospitals and burn centers.

Speakers at the two day meet included: Dwight Hall on "Program Advertising;" Cecil Byrne on "Circus Acts and Production;" Chick Johnson on "Public Relations and Advertising;" John L. Jones on "Contracts;" Robert Clark on "Concessions;" Jim McMahan on "Members, Coupons, Dads and Merchants Tickets;" Bernard Gillespie on "Insurance" and J. B. Hubbard on "Outdoor Circuses."

## Miscellaneous

Some 33,000 people attended Polack Bros. Circus at its Oct. 17-19 date in Charleston, W. Va. giving the show a 25% increase in its gross over last year.

MARY CHIPPERFIELD is shown here with one of her pet tigers during a training session.



# SAWDUST TRAIL

. . . by M. L. DUPONT

Fisher Bros. Circus made some long jumps to get the show into quarters at Donna, Texas, after the tragic death of Mrs. Emma Duke, mother of Bea K. Silverlake. The show then sent its animals to the Mid America Circus for a few weeks work.

Sells & Gray Circus played two towns with the same name last month - Batesville, Ark. (Oct. 7) and Batesville, Miss. (Oct. 21). They closed their 1975 tour at Crestview, Ala. on Nov. 2nd.

RBBB's Blue Unit lost some \$15,000 worth of equipment during the show's engagement at New Orleans in the Super Dome. Most of it just disappeared, as if it got up and walked away.

Monroe, La., has had a big flood of shows this year - two tented circuses and three stage circuses, plus Ringling-Barnum.

Horses and ponies belonging to Kay Hanneford Ille, on Beatty-Cole, were poisoned at Gulfport, but no one knew until the next day. The vet confirmed it was poison and one pony died, but no one knows how or why it happened.

Bob Hofmeister brought his horses to the Beatty show for a few days, then the Herriott family joined in New Orleans for the rest of the season.

Do Do, the Clown, has just finished his third year at the La. Purchase Gardens and is now looking forward to a busy holiday season.

## COMPROMISE MADE (Continued)

The compromise settlement was made just shortly before a jury was to have been selected to hear the case in the 42nd District Court. Judge Don Lane approved the settlement, then dismissed the prospective jurors.

The elephant, according to reports, died some time ago of asphyxiation in its trailer at the circus facilities near Indianapolis, Ind.

## SHOW PREPS (Continued)

Rosenheim will be the gen. agent.

Winterquarters have been established at Brandon, Fla., about seven miles from Miami. The show's big top, a 120 ft. round end tent with three 50 ft. centers, is already in quarters. Seating capacity is said to be 3,000 people.

The current plans call for a performance of one hour and forty minutes, featuring several animal acts, including lions, tigers and elephants. Admission prices will be \$2.00 for children and \$3.00 for adults, with no reserved seats.