



6th Year

October 10, 1977

Number 41

## Pay Tax Or...

The tax collector threatened an attachment of all show property in a confrontation at Davenport, Iowa, last month with the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus. The unusual situation developed over the question of sales tax for an entertainment medium - the circus.

The circus plays only indoor shopping mall dates and does not charge an admission for its performances. They work for a flat fee, paid to them by the shopping malls.

The tax people charged the fee paid by the mall "constituted" admission and was thus taxable. They ordered the circus to pay a 3% sales tax to the state for its engagement in Davenport as well as for a previous date at Cedar Falls. If the tax was not pay they were warned that all equipment would be attached by the sheriff until such time as payment was made.

The circus played Overland, Kansas, during the time the area was devastated by a flood, which wiped out hundreds of homes and business firms. As a result attendance was down and the date was one of the "poor" ones on the show route. However, they were re-

booked for the coming year.

Attendance at both Denver and Davenport was above expectations with the malls jammed full of people for each performance. SRO crowds were also on hand for shows presented by the circus in Sioux Falls.

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*Paul V. Kaye*

# HOLLYWOOD ELEPHANTS

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## SHOW VISIT

The Holiday Hippodrome, sponsored by the VFW, presented an excellent performance at the Beatrice (Nebr) City Auditorium on Sept. 21st.

The program included: Walter & Ingrid, plate spinning; Bradbury & Co., illusions; Paulette, fire batons; The Sherrys, rolling globes; The Houcs, juggling; Floyd Bradbury, balloons.

In the second half were: Al Antonucci, chimps (2) and dogs (2); Myro Alberti & Co., hand balancing; Bradbury & Co., Metamorphosis illusion; Rianos Duo, slack wire. Floyd Bradbury played the organ and also acted as MC, while Sherri Bradbury played the drums.

The Sherry's number on the rolling globes (painted like an 8 ball) was one of the most unusual acts of its type which we have ever seen, and it included many new features.

Floyd Bradbury's illusions were also a great act and included the popular Zig-Zag, which is even more mind-boggling when seen in person.

## Big Show

Acts featured with the Jose Cole Circus, sponsored by the Variety Club, at Grand Rapids, Mich., on Sept. 23-25 included:

Al Ross, come-in clown; Spec; Lawrence Grant, lions; Doubleday & Co., aerial gorilla comedy; Clowns; The Patricks, rola bola; Great Arturo, head balancing trapeze; Joyce Rice, whips and ropes; Miss Lydia (Burkett), single trapeze; King's Mixed Animals; Roy's Magic; The Flying Viennas; Jose Cole, one finger stand; The Davisons, Joyce Rice and Maryse Begary, juggling; Los Comancheros, double trapeze; The Burketts, aerial perch; Al Ross, break-away bike; Tony Steele, sponge plunge; Walt King's elephants.

..... Lisa Stewart

Visitors at the show included the writer, Larry Chartiers, Manhattan, Kans.; Cliff and Dorothy Day, South Omaha and Ron Sanford. Following the performance many of the show folks visited my home to look at circus films and to spend a few hours just visiting.

..... Bill Green

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Oct. 10 Oxford, Ala.  
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13 Aberdeen, Miss.  
15 Vernon, Ala.  
16 Haleyville

Circus Vargas  
Oct. 10-12 Haverford, Pa.  
13-17 Washington, DC

Hall & Christ Circus Unique  
to Oct. 23 Dallas, Texas

Royal Hanneford Circus  
Oct. 14-16 Johnson City, Tenn.

Hoxie Bros. Circus  
Oct. 10 Shaw AFB, S.C.  
11 Charleston AFB  
12 Hunter AAF, Ga.  
13 Fort Stewart  
14 Fernandina Bch, Fla.  
15 Palatka  
16 Gainesville

Hoxie's Great American Circus  
Oct. 10 Collinsville, Va.  
12 Kings Mountain, N.C.  
13 Woodruff  
14 Winsboro  
15 Denmark  
- End of the Season -

King Bros. Circus  
Oct. 10 Bay St. Louis, Miss.  
11 Ocean Springs  
12 Bayou La Batre, Ala.  
13 Chipley, Fla.  
14 Panama City  
15 Perry  
16 Belleview

Mahi Shrine Circus  
Oct. 12-16 Miami, Fla.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit  
Oct. 11-12 Carbondale, Ill.  
14-16 Champaign

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
to Oct. 16 Denver, Colo.

Royal Danish Circus  
to Oct. 15 Halifax, N.S.

Sells & Gray Circus  
Oct. 10 Neodeska, Kans.  
11 Fredonia  
12 Ponce City, Okla.  
13 Pryor  
14 Muskogee  
15 Sallisaw  
16 Wewoka

John Strong Circus  
Oct. 10 Marina, Calif.  
11 Lodi  
12 Ceres  
13 Hanford  
14 Porterville  
15-16 Bakersfield

---- OTHER ROUTES ----

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit  
Oct. 10-15 Lanett, Ala.  
- End of the Season -

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit  
Oct. 10-15 Meridian, Miss.

James H. Drew Shows  
Oct. 10-15 Monroe, Ga.

The Gong Show  
Oct. 10 Toronto, Ontario

Lee Grabel Illusion Show  
Oct. 10 Salinas, Calif.  
11 Monterey  
12 Santa Cruz  
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## BILLY BARTON . . . .

**GEORGE HUBLER's** prop and concession trailer caught fire on the jump to his Rochester (NY) date (Sept. 10). Several thousand dollars worth of equipment was lost in the fire, including ring curbs, concession stock and light cables. A trucker, who was also a Shriner, spotted the smoke and flagged George down. Other truckers stopped, getting out fire extinguishers. From 1:30 a.m. until 5:30 a.m. they fought the blaze which had started when a spring broke and friction from the wheel box ignited the trailer flooring. "The fire department arrived too late, as usual," George told me by phone, "but the trailer can be salvaged."

**ON THE SCENE WITH ROYAL HANNEFORD:** The fall season kick off at Muncie (Ind) on Sept. 15, was followed by Elkhart on the 17th and 18th. Biz at both spots was very good. Augmenting the show in Elkhart were the WAZZANS and the GREAT HUBERTO. . . . JERRY MAAS took delivery on a new Country-Aire trailer. . . . TOMMY HANNEFORD celebrated his birthday with a huge party featuring a cake depicting his elephant truck and "Chandra's" rear end framing the side truck door. He received many gifts and MUCH razzon on this, his 50th year. . . . AERIALETTA II made an auspicious debut with new costuming, new music, all new presentation and routines, and is a sensation. She is working her "Jo Ann and Sunny" seal act in a platinum blonde wig and nobody recognizes her, not even TONY STEELE and his wife who were visiting, or the NICCOLINIS who have just returned from abroad where their two sons are working in Israel with a chimp act. . . . MAR-QUEEN SCHLARBAUM was spotted sitting in the seats during a performance "grading" school papers for her school which has now re-opened. . . . TAJANA has added 3 sit-up tigers on 3 revolving mirror balls and it looks great, goes over big. . . . PETER HAUBNER is doing his forward somersault in the riding act, just prior to the "horse-to-horse back". . . . WALLY and CHERYL continue to be two of the funniest clowns in the business. . . . DWIGHT HANSEN has completely remodelled the interior of his Aitstream. . . . JAMES ZOPPE and his new bride, MAFALDA, were seen visiting in Elkhart, also KAYE SCHIEMAN, the owners of FISHER BROS., and the HORTOBAGYIS. . . . Outstanding in the Hanneford program is the newly revamped elephant number featuring a girl on every elephant (8 yr. old Nellis on the smallest elephant) with striking new costumes created by talented SENOR RAI — and his new costumes, which he made

himself, are pure Las Vegas — he has to be the "Liberace" of the Circus Ringmasters!

**SNAPSHOTS:** ETHEL JENNIER ducks into Mayo Clinic at the end of the Beatty tour to have her face lifted preparatory to next season's whirlwind trek with George Hubler, Sandy Dobritch, Sam T. Polack and Royal Hanneford, to name a few. . . . SLICK VALENTINE has retired, plans to get his license and be an agent. . . . EMIL and DEBBIE GOETSCHI are now in California. . . . They played the Reno date for the Stebbings/Polack show. . . . The Beatty band boasts a 3 legged dog as their "mascot" — it's called "Nellie Tripod". . . . EDNA ANTES has returned to the Beatty show after the death of her mother. Our condolences to Mrs. Antes. . . . ARNOLD MALEY, now in his 80's, tells me he will "positively" retire after this year. BILLY GRIFFIN tells me NOT to believe him — we'll see. . . . RON and MITZIE are reported to be going with Circus Vargas in 1978. . . . LONI VAN VOORDEN phoned to tell me how she broke her wrists on QV but I was on the road and missed her call. Sorry about BOTH, Loni! . . . GEORGE HUBLER adds Raleigh to his route, playing their Nov. 5-6. . . . PRINCE NAJVEZ is centering the Royal Hanneford Aerial Ballet on most of the big dates. . . . MARY RUTH HERRIOTT is with Hoxie's Great American Circus. . . . The Dobritch Int'l Circus day and dated Ringling in Detroit the week of Sept. 19th. . . . BRIAN MAAS has developed into a very good show drummer.

I think KEITH KILLINGER was putting us on about his so-called retirement! The man has been super busy all season. He writes the Kool Aid Circus was a success on its 11 day run, plays Tampa next, and may have a long run in 1978. Meanwhile Keith is playing fairs and Shrine dates for EDDIE ZACCHINI, also arranging music for ETHEL JENNIER's new greyhound presentation next season.

**ON JULY 30th VASHEK & KATHY** played a benefit performance in Johnstown (Pa) to help raise money for the flood victims. The show was organized by Kathy's dad, BILL CASSIDY. None of the performers were paid, the show was open to the public by donation, with all proceeds handled by the Red Cross for the homeless. I've always said Vashek and Kathy are swell kids and THIS proves it!

**TOMMY HANNEFORD** bought several very expensive legs of lamb which he stored in the freezer with the tiger meat. When he went to get it he discovered it had been fed to the tigers!

See you down the road, luvs.

## PEOPLE

FRANK ELISCU, circus sculpturer, has his work on display at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, Fla.

HUGO ZUNIGA, juggler, worked out some juggling routines with members of the famous Chinese Circus Revue when the group visited the Ringling-Barnum theme park in Florida.

THE ESQUEDA TROUPE and TOM UPTON were among the visitors seen on the lot at the Gatti show in Dixon (Calif) last week.

HAROLD RONK, RBBB circus announcer, will be the first speaker in a series of lectures "Circus People Look At the Circus" scheduled at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, starting on Nov. 1st.

EARL and BETTY SCHMID have purchased the the Paul Caldwell circus collection. A large part of the collection was obtained by Paul from Roland Butler (Sparks, RBBB, etc. publicity director). The purchase was negotiated through Paul's widow.

## Acts Named

The Franzen Bros. Circus offers a truly entertaining and delightful show which is enjoyed by youngsters and adults alike. When visited at Wanatah and Sharpville (Ind.) the show's program featured:

Dennis Michaels as Freddy the clown, plate spinning; Wayne Franzen, lions (3); Mandi Michaels, web; Freddy with Cecil, the donkey; Wayne Franzen, with Tonto, pick-out routine; Freddy and Bobo Michaels, balance gag; Wayne Franzen, goats; Curtis Cainan, wire and juggling; Freddy, egg magic; Lynn Michaels and the Barker Family of dogs; Freddy and the balloon; Bobo Michaels, swinging revolving ladder; Wayne Franzen, liberty horse Tonto; Curtis Cainan, fire eating and juggling and Wayne Franzen, elephant.

.....Kaye Scheiman



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# The Big E

It became apparent that Wayne McCary had put together another winner this year for the Eastern States Exposition at West Springfield, Mass. when his Royal International Show opened on Sept. 14th for a five day run at the biggest fair in the east. McCary, who is also Executive Assistant on the administrative staff of the Exposition, has been producing circuses for the fair for eight years. The show, a special unit custom-tailored for the Big E, included a shimmering array of some of the greatest names and best talent in our business.

Exposition officials credit the circus as one of the major factors that drew unprecedented crowds to the fair during its run, despite several days of bad weather. An all-time single-day attendance record for the fair was set on Sunday, Sept. 18th when 152,000 people came through the gates. Audiences for the circus itself were limited to the 6,000 seat coliseum, but the show played to a total of about 66,400 turning away literally thousands for ten of its twelve performances.

Big E Publicity Director, Betsi Taylor, reports that Karl Wallenda should be credited with a large share of the show's promotional success. Betsi conservatively estimates that Karl made at least thirty-five press conferences and media interviews while he was in the Springfield area.

The performance itself was smooth and well-balanced, averaging about an hour and twelve minutes running time. The overture was a special Boom-Boom Browning arrangement of Jesus Christ Superstar.

Guy Gossing's tigers were the opening act, proving once again that this is one of the most exciting and unpredictable cage acts in the busi-

ness. Next the spotlights swept into the girders to pick up the Reginine Duo cradle act (Sasa Armor and Jim Nell).

Then came the Vidbell pony drill, the white ponies looking like glistening cotton candy under the four carbon-arc spots. The Dymeks, from Poland, a trio consisting of two muscular men and a very attractive girl top-mounter, provided one of the most polished flexible balance-pole routines this reporter has seen in many years.

Sir Victor Julian and his Little Stars gave the sort of performance here that justifies their international pre-eminence among animal acts.

Another high point in the show was the Flying Armors, as might be expected. They were followed by Vidbell's elephants, and the show closed with the special magic of Karl Wallenda and the Great Wallendas.

Boom Boom Browning, with an eleven piece band, lived up to his reputation and then some, as musical director. Ken Matoon was in charge of the building staff and lighting crew. Prop and rigging boss was Roland Cody. Charley Van Buskirk was announcer and performance director, and the audio-technicians worked under Lou Bianco.

Visitors during the five days included Gunnar Amandis, Ian Garden, and delegations from IBM and several fairs and regional expositions throughout the U. S. and Canada.

One aspect of the show that received considerable favorable public comment was the one ring format that Wayne McCary favors for nearly all of his productions. McCary is currently setting acts for the Royal Int'l Circus 1978 spring tour of Northern New England Shrine dates.

..... Charley Van Buskirk

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## Big Day

Monday, Sept. 26th, will go down in history for members of the Harold Barnes Tent No. 110, CFA, of Springfield, Ohio. That was the day they were called upon for assistance by the D.T. & I. Railroad, to assume the watering of animals on the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit train at a stop in Springfield.

The 37 car train was due in at 11:30 a.m. for a watering stop to last an hour and a half, but due to unforeseen problems, late departure, delay in crossing over the B&O tracks near Lima and one car suffering "sticky brakes", the show train pulled into town at 12:50 p.m. Fifteen fans, including the female members of the tent were waiting to assist in their duties as outlined by CFA Central Vice President Jim Saunders. They had been broken down into two groups, one to assist in the watering operation and the other to assist in crowd control. An estimated crowd of 500 Springfielders jammed the railroad yards, including school bus loads of youngsters waiting to see their first circus train. This marked the first time that an RBBB train had stopped in Springfield since it showed here in 1954.

The fans were assisted by Spfld Twp No. 2 Volunteer Fire Dept., who supplied the much needed fire hose to complete the operation. Four stock cars of elephants and horses were watered as well as two tunnel cars of tigers and polar bears. While the watering operation was taking place rail employees were busy correcting the brake problem on the circus flat car.

The whole operation was completed in an hour and 35 minutes and the train was on its way to

## Fair Date

Among those working with the Stebbing Royal European Circus at the fair in Richmond, Va. were: Virginia Lee Fenton, organist; Chuck Gomes, drummer; Ben DeWayne, elephants; Carl Linares, poodles; Vicki and Carol Stebbing aerialists; the Tabaks, aerial perch; Robert Stebbing and John's daughter, elephant; John and Vicki Stebbing, chimps, The concession

and Vicki Stebbing, chimps. The concession crew included: Don and Mary Bullitt, plus Bernie and Gloria Biglin.

Visitors at the circus have included: Carla Walenda, Rusty and Rita, Ted Burdick, Mudcat, Mory Fine, Gerry Kaye, Al Mandy, Tom Peek and Woody. The latter folks are all former circus butchers.

Nashville, Tenn., The circus officials were very pleased with the ease of the operation, the rail officials were happy to be available and the fans were more than happy to assist — that is what the CFA is all about!

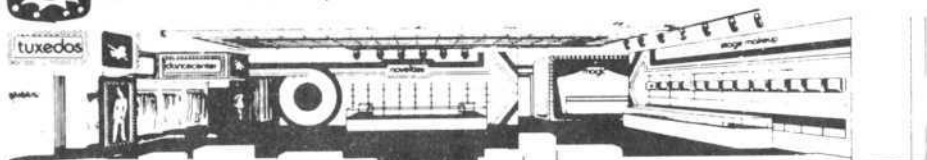
Fans who assisted in the operation included: Jim and Pat Saunders, Allen Brewer, Warren and Donna Downing, John and Sharon Knight, Charlie DeWein, John O'Toole, Bob McDonald, Walt Gregg, Harrison Laybourne and Al Conover. Many thanks to these people who gave of their time to assist the circus. Newspapers and TV crews on the scene dubbed us as the "Three Ring Welcome Wagon."

..... Jim Saunders



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MARIA RASPUTIN BERN (77) died at her home in Silverlake, Calif. (near Los Angeles) after suffering a breath period of troubled breathing. She was the only surviving child of the Mad Monk Rasputin. She worked as an animal trainer in London before coming to the U. S. in 1935 to appear with Ringling-Barnum and Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus. She left the circus after she was mauled by a bear. In recent years she was a popular guest on radio and TV talk shows and authored a book about her father.

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**Acts Set**

Novelty acts booked by Simone Finner Enterprises for the new Barry Ashton Revue opening at Cal-Neva Lodge, Lake Tahoe, Nevada, in early November include Joey Jordan, juggler, and Lucien Meyer and Friends, ice-skating chimps.

**show program**

We caught all three shows of the Royal Hanneford Circus at Elkhart, Ind., on Sept. 17-18 and enjoyed the program. Music was provided by Chuck Schlarbaum and Gerry and Brian Maas, while the announcing was handled by Senor Rai.

The program featured: Aerial display with the two Ramos hair hangs, plus Kim and Sharon on ladders; Tajana's tigers; the Wazzans, comedy ladder; Aerial ballet with four girls on web and featuring Magdalena Ramos; JoAnn Jennier and Sunny, the seal; Senor Rai, magic; Herbie Weber, slide for life; Hanneford riding act; the Wazzans, trampoline; Molly & Dolly, washer-women; Karen's Doves; Ramos, one finger stand; Isabella, balancing; Ramos, one finger stand; Miss Aerioletta II, trapeze; The Wazzans, acrobats; The Oscarians, risley and the circus elephants.

..... Kaye Scheiman

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**Show Acts**

The program, offered by the Thrill Circus, produced by Paul V. Kaye for the Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona (Sept. 26-Oct. 2) featured: Jack Cervone, musical director; Harry Thomas, tigers (12); The Jupiter Trio, triple wide trapeze; Clowns; Valdez, juggling; De Mille, wire; Torinos Trio, juggling; Aerial ballet featuring Ramon, Arturo and La Gran Robert; Katinka's Kanines; the Lance Link chimps; Jeffrey's California Seals; Clowns; the Antonio Trio, Spanish Horses; the Four Flying Ramos; the Flying Russells; the Hollywood Elephants, featuring Baby Judy, the African elephant; the Great Valentino, high wire; Mireilles, trampoline; the Eight Hortobagyis, teeterboard; the Fergus, trampoline; The Nock Brothers, twin sway poles.

Announcements were handled by John Day, and Clown Alley consisted of: Smiley Daly, Jr. producing clown, Roger Arroyo, Linda Daly, Mike Davis, Greg Dean, Tim Hill, Neal Kay and Ken Miller.

**NOTICE**

Please note for your files . . . .

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# PEOPLE

GEORGE HUBLER will drive to Indianapolis (Ind) with EARL CREAGER and GENE HAERLIN, Chairman and Assistant Chairman of Dayton's Antioch Shrine Circus. The trio will attend the Shrine Imperial Circus Seminar. Hubler also plans to attend a scheduled Circus Producer's Association meeting.

FRANK P. GEORGE has some back issues of White Tops magazine he wants to trade. He is interested in obtaining films of Ringling-Barnum under canvas. Write him at: 3 Halidon Terrace, Newport, R. I., 02840.

DON WASHBURN and PHIL SHEAR worked several dates with the American Cont'l Circus before taking their clown numbers to the Dr. Pepper Circus at Dallas, Texas.

HARRY MUELLER, who lives in Cupertino, Calif., got his start in the circus world as a small boy then from 1942-1949 he published the Circus Album regularly.

Show Organist, Comedy Chimps, Poodles, Announcer. Wilson, Box 1167, Concord, N. C. 28025. (704) 786-4536

## In Memoriam

MRS RUTH HILL (65) daughter of the late movie and circus star Tom Mix, died in Corpus Christi, Texas, on Sept. 22nd. She had been ill for only a short time. She lived in Corpus Christi since 1954.

WILLIAM L. (Bill) OLIVER (81) died at the Elks Home in Bedford, Va. on Sept. 18th. He was born in Shelbyville, Ill., and was a member of the Bill Poster's Union for 35 years. He joined Gollmar Bros. Circus in 1914 and worked with all the major shows in the country. At one time he worked as manager for the Hilton Sisters (Siamese twins) and the Georgia Minstrels. He also operated the Dilley and Oliver outdoor advertising company and Conrath's Advertising Co. For some time he served as advertising car manager for Hagenbeck-Wallace.

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## Pot-Pourri

BILL BRICKLE has added the black poodle "Rosita" to his show act. The poodle was formerly with Paulette's Peerless Pups....FLORA GERALDO, of the Flying Columbians is pregnant....THE CHANDLERS, THE EASTWOODS and TOM SINK will work a six week Holiday tour this winter with "The Holiday Magic Circus."....JIMMY HALL, JOHN (Tiny) PHILIPS and MIKE NAUGHTON visited Hoxie Bros. Circus....THE CHANDLERS are set to work with BILL BRICKLE'S Fantasyland Circus in The Carolinas and Georgia....Hoxie Bros. Circus is sidewalling it for the rest of the tour.. ..Talent for the Cole All Star TV Circus will include The BARRY MILLER TROUPE, The CHANDLERS and the LANG FAMILY.

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.....Hilda Fastman, News Editor for the Mentor, Ohio, Sunday Paper.

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## GOOD SHOW

The Dobritch Int'l Circus, produced by Sandy Dobritch, wound up a successful four day run for the Wayne County Sheriffs' Association in Wayne, Mich., on Sept. 26th.

Playing in opposition to Ringling Blue at Detroit's Olympia Stadium, some 20 miles away, plus encountering plenty of rain, the Dobritch Circus nevertheless racked up overflow, straw houses for at least six of its nine performances. It's estimated that crowds in excess of 40,000 jammed the 150x300 ft. Florida Tent Rental big top.

Visitors seen at the Dobritch Circus included: Marqueen Schlarbaum, her sister and brother-in-law; Irv Romig and family; Grace Mac Intosh and Chuck Marine; George Da Deppo; the Farias; Billy McCabe; Clarence Hastings; Stanley Book; Bobby Johnson and many others from the local area.



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## Show Work

Acts appearing in the Grotto Circus, produced by George Hubler, at Rochester, N. Y., Sept. 10th, include: Jeanette Rix, bears; The Bumpy Family; Donna Wilson, trapeze; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghans; Johnny Laddie, unsupported ladders; Herbie Weber, wire; Miss Susan and Miss Sonja, webs; The Stevens, trampoline; the Wilson's cradle; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Revue.

Included on the George Hubler produced "Stars of Nashville Special" at Galesburg, Ill., on Sept. 24th were: Pete Daniels, country-western singer; Moon Spoon Group, musical group; Susan Sheryll, recording star; Tommy Cash and the Famous Tomcats.

The show was sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Eagles with all profits going to the Jimmy Durante Fund for Charity. Two shows were presented with advance tickets priced at \$4.25 per person or \$12.00 for the family. At the door tickets sold for \$6.00 per person.

The Emmett Kelly, Jr., Circus program at the University at Normal, Ill., on Sept. 25th featured: Kent Clayton, announcer; Emmett Kelly, Jr. introduction; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghans; Emmett and rope; The Wainwrights,

## FLASH!

DAVE TWOMEY, clown and owner/director of the Happytime Circus, has been released from the hospital and will be recuperating at the home of a friend in Tacoma, Wash.

## ROUTES

James E. Strates Show  
Oct. 14-22 Raleigh, N. C.

This Is Hawaii . . . On Ice  
Oct. 12-16 Perth, W. Aust.

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trampoline; The Claytons, ropes and whips; Carmen del Molino, wire; The Wazzans, revolving ladder; Johnson's Bears; La Vonne, web; The Wainwrights, acrobats; Emmett and magic; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys and the Wazzan Troupe, tumbling.

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It's getting around to that time when the Holidays are not far off. If you'd like to place a Holiday Greeting in Circus Report send your copy soon.

There are no advances in advertising costs for the annual Holiday issue. Prices run \$5.00 for a minimum ad, \$10.00 Quarter Page, \$15.00 Half Page and \$25.00 for a full page - No color work available.

## PEOPLE

REX WILLIAMS was working an elephant ride at the Fair in Richmond, Va. He and BEN DE WAYNE were featured in a newspaper article about show folks late last month.

SAMMY KING, comedy star and ERNEST MONTEGO, juggler, are starring in the stage show "Paris Scandale" at Nevada's Cal-Neva Lodge.

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## PLEASE NOTE

Clarification and a statement regarding last week's telephone interview with E. J. McDaniels, including some information about his activities is scheduled for an early issue of The Circus Report.

## PEOPLE

ED ASNER has a \$120,800 lawsuit against the TV show "Circus of Stars" he alleges he was misled into being a part of the show with the idea the proceeds were going to charity.

EDDIE EDWARDS, a former John Strong Circus clown, has moved from his California home to a farm in New York State.

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## MAGIC

We were fortunate enough to be in the Michigan area with Magic Time USA and were able to stop in Colon and catch the opening night show of Abbott's 40th annual Magic Get-together. It was very ably MC'd by Gordon Miller and featured Ger Copper, Ching Fu & Co., Ken Summers and Kim, Maria Suey, and closed with Neil Foster who received a standing ovation. Neil only improves with time. I recall working with him on an IBM Convention in Houston in 1957. I thought he was great then and now he is even better and I hope to see him again in another 20 years.

In Colon we visited with the Conklins, Clayton Albright, Tom Ogden, Walt Hudson and many others. Especially enjoyed a chat with Stan Kramien who is one of the real pros in our business. Had coffee and a chat with Inez Kitchen and Mark Sraw at Mark's home. Inez (Blackstone) is the grand lady of magic and lives in my hometown of Sarasota, Fla. I have not been at home for over a year and a half, so had a lot of catching up to do with Inez. Mark is an interesting fellow and if you get a chance to meet him he has many interesting magic stories about his trips overseas.

Unfortunately, one day was all we could spend in Colon and then we had to go on to Cincinnati where Mike Martin visited the show. We have received some interesting correspondence from other shows. Had a nice note from Bob Momyer, of Phoenixville (Pa) who with his wife, Sandra, presents "Magic International Show" using a monkey, lynx, parrots, doves, rabbits and a boa constrictor. Also had a nice letter from Vince Carmen who reports he is touring a 7 person show with many large illusions.

Vince's letter, including a nice brochure depicting some of the illusions he presented in Ward Hall's magic show in Mexico last year. The girl to tiger illusion was of special interest to us. It was built by our friend Dick Berry (then of Bradenton, Fla., now of Jackson, Miss.) He started building it for us, but then we purchased an Abbott make so we negotiated for Ward Hall to purchase the Berry model for his show. In Mexico, Ward got Johnny Lam to come on the show to furnish a cat for the illusion and load it, etc., Incidentally, Ward's magic show was under contract to Ricardo Verdoney, who handled press

for many years with Atayde Bros. (He's a cousin) when my wife, Sara, was a featured act with Atayde. After a few weeks Ward sold the show equipment and illusions to Verdoney who operated it on his own for the rest of the season. The props are still Verdoney's property and in Mexico, but I understand the show is no longer out.

Speaking of props in Mexico, magician Dino Flores who played the Doug Henning part in the Mexican version of "The Magic Show" bought all the props when the show closed and has them in Mexico. So Mexico has some good props - all of the California built magic show props and all of Ward Hall's props, many of which were built or rebuilt by Jerry Conklin.

Back in N.J., Magic Time USA was visited by Al Delage, Larry Weeks, Fred Bradshaw, Al Meredith and many others. Larry Weeks holds four All Day Magic Conventions each year in New York City and they are great affairs. His next one is Dec. 4th. For information write to him at: 456 Brooklyn Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11225.

In New York we stopped in our "NY Office" - Flosso's Magic Shop, 304 W. 34th St. Jackie Flosso took over when his Dad passed on (we sure miss Al - one of the greatest in the business) and is doing quite well. Flosso's was started by Houdini way back when, is America's oldest magic shop and is the "pros place". Chatted with Stanley Burns in Flosso's who is without doubt America's greatest vent. Stop in Flosso's when you are in the city, it is where the action is.

In Fitchburg, Mass., we showed in the old Fitchburg Theatre which is an old vaude house. Vulcan used the theatre for many years as his home base. In Rhode Island we were visited by magician Fred Marko, fans Tom and Flo Kulbabsky, animal man Jimmy Cole and impresario Cliff Lenox. Marko delivered an Abbott's Taboret illusion to us which we had bought a few years back but never picked up. Marko used it when he was touring with the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus a few years ago. This great illusion was featured on many big shows. Blackstone called it the "up and down" illusion and Thurston called it "Iasia."

Christmas will soon be upon us so be looking

(Continued on Page 18)

## MAIL

As one who was part of the Ringling Thrill Circus at the Ohio State Fair, I would like to disagree with the recent review you ran of that show.

First - The production was designed as a Thrill Show not the usual production number format offered by Ringling's Red or Blue Units. As far as anyone being disappointed with the show, everyone on the fairgrounds that I talked to between shows was very complimentary towards it.

Second - Regarding the general set-up, this could not be handled any other way. When this many acts are together for an event the size of this (which to my knowledge has never been done before at a fair in the U. S.) one tries to make the best of things. I for one thought it was well laid out under the circumstances. The semi-trailer added much flash with its murals of giraffes and elephants on its sides. Who really cares what was inside of it? Any programs sold were from the 1976 Red Unit featuring the Bi-Centennial. By being sold there, it gave people a chance to buy a worthwhile souvenir of the event.

Third - Most of the elephant acts (independent) supply their own ring curbs. They had to work at the same time as the cage acts due to the fact other grandstand acts were appearing during the fair also. I'll agree that it would have been great to see the elephant acts and both cage acts too. I for one, made a special effort on the last day of the fair to sit in the grandstand during the show and could see it all. I even took some of the best pictures ever. Rix's act and Barreda's both looked great. Bill Pryun had an outstanding band there also.

Fourth - As far as the grandstand problem on seats, the show could be seen well from the track in front which was permitted to be entered. Many people were there too. Actually, one didn't really need to be in the grandstand as most acts could easily be seen depending on what they were.

The cannon acts as far as I could see were situated well and particularly were popular with the crowd. Under the circumstances this number could not have been done any other way, either.

## WANT AGENTS

Have openings for Nov. 18-19-20  
Indoor date at Springfield, Ill.

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504 Charles Street  
Springdale, Arkansas 72764

## In Memoriam

MARY FORD (53) the singing and guitar-playing partner of Les Paul in the 1950's died of pneumonia after laying in a diabetic coma for several weeks at a Los Angeles hospital. Death came on Oct. 1st.

She retired from active show business in 1964 after divorcing Les Paul. A year later she married Don Hatfield who had been a boyfriend during her youth.

Survivors include her husband, Don Hatfield, a sister and two children.

## MAGIC (Continued)

for the many magic shows that are out at that time of year. The Amazing Conklins will be doing dates for L. G. Gordon and Jim Nordmark. Phil Chandler will be working in Phil Blysnar's variety show. Joe Eddy has his own dates in Wisconsin. Al Delage will be all over the place. Our Magic Time USA will be working Mearl Johnson dates. Stop by if you can.

Prof. "Stu" Miller, 2364 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, Fla. - 33577.

Without a doubt, this attraction of the Ringling Thrill Circus was a supreme asset to the Ohio State Fair. It was also the reason for the fair's increase in attendance. I personally talked with Governor Rhodes about the show and he had nothing but praise for Ringling. Ward Hall, the veteran side show operator did well, all due to the free circus.

Whether we see another production as fantastic as this remains to be seen, but I know I enjoyed my time there and have never seen a more well run attraction and layout. My opinion is shared by many people both patrons and professional acts appearing there.

..... Tom Henricks

## New Book

**THE GRAND TRUNK WESTERN RAILROAD**  
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With the attention to detail and factual presentation which are the hallmark of his best-selling rail histories, author Dorin traces the early history, motive power, trains and train service of the Grand Trunk Western in the U. S., and how the line joined with Amtrack in 1974.

Here are descriptions of the routes traveled, the consists of the trains themselves, timetables, maps, equipment rosters, and profiles of per-

## Miscellaneous

Five Bengal tiger cubs, said to be surplus, were donated to the Ringling-Barnum Circus during the show's Red Unit engagement in the Pacific Northwest last month.

Several show folks were reportedly stranded in Sapulpa, Okla., without money for fuel, food or animal feed. Newspapers reported they had worked a series of dates in the area, for which they had not been paid.

## YEARS AGO

Downie Bros. Circus - Great Barrington, Mass., July 18, 1931.

Downie Bros. Circus arrived here this morning on about 100 trucks and cars and set up at the fair grounds. Everything was up before noon when a street parade was given.

They have 14 cages, 5 elephants and 4 camels. Their tents include: Big Top, Menagerie, Side Show, No. 2 Side Show, Dressing Tent, Dining Tent, Kitchen and horse tents.

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The above two advertisements appeared side-by-side in the San Francisco (Calif.) newspapers on April 1, 1913