

TAD BIR THE 1970 1971 1972 1973



6th Year

April 11, 1977

Number 15

R-B Sets Fair Date

A special circus featuring 25 to 30 acts will be produced by Ringling-Barnum for the Ohio State Fair on Aug. 22-28. The program will reportedly offer Ohio citizens something that cannot be seen anywhere else. Ohio's Governor James A. Rhodes has been a guiding force in obtaining the circus for the fair. It will be the greatest attraction to play any fair, he said.

The fair's general manager John Evans reported last week that a verbal agreement had been reached with the circus and the only thing left to work out, he added, is the cost. It will be the first time the circus has ever played at a fair, he said.

The circus will perform on the infield of the grandstand, offering two performances each week day with three shows on the weekend.

Admission to the fair will be \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children, which will include the 75 minute circus performance.

The fair annually spends about \$500,000 on entertainment

TROUBLE AHEAD

Circuses and animal trainers are in for some rough times if Sue Pressman, director of wild-life protection for the U. S. Humane Society has anything to say about it. The tough Cornell-trained veterinarian and one-time Olympic skater has traveled all over the world to fight for the welfare of animals.

(Continued on Page 15)

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Paul V. Kaye

HOLLYWOOD ELEPHANTS

Contact

PAUL V. KAYE

Suite 519 • 1680 North Vine Street • Hollywood, California • 90028

Area Code 213 • 462-6001

Jerry Cottle's Circus

First off the mark, Gerry Cottle's Circus opened the English 1977 Tenting Season with a 17 day stand at Birmingham, starting March 3rd. Britain's fastest growing show, which last year was the only local circus to feature the American Bi-centennial, this year uses the Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee to distinguish and enliven his circus. Thus there is a Grand Finale with suitably decorated vehicles, much waving of the Union Jack, and plenty of the good old Red, White and Blue.

The first half of the program features: Clown Entree; Kansas Bros., jugglers; El Hakim, Fakir; Parade of exotic animals; Clown camel; Miss Babette's dogs; Louis Munoz, tightwire; Clown entree; Liberty horses presented by Carlos Mc Manus; King Kong, comedy "gorilla"; Captain Sydney Howes, lions.

After intermission come the Cimarro Bros. on the high wire, with blindfold, two man high walk over the lions den; Kalil Oghaby, Persian strong man; Sisters Inarios, trapeze and ropes; La Famille Santus, cyclists; Clown decorating gag; James Sisters and "Otaki", western act; Cimarro Bros., motorbike and trapeze on the inclined wire; Capt. Universe, human cannon ball; Grand Finale.

In the fall of last year this circus traveled to the Arabian Gulf, by invitation, to appear before the Sultan of Oman and the Royal Family; the President of the United Arab Emirates and the Vice-president of Egypt, and then in Bahrein before H. E. the Prime Minister and the Senior Heads of Government.

BIG DATE

Circus Odyssey's appearance in Ponce, P.R., on March 24-27 was greeted by excellent business. Ed Migley and Rafi Miranda told CR that they broke even for the entire Puerto Rican run on the second big house (Friday, Mar. 25) and the rest of the run and the following run in Mayaguez (Mar. 31-Apr. 3) would be "gravy."

Ponce had not had a major circus in four years and word of mouth built the business which was already good to very good by Saturday and Sunday when the circus did three shows each day.

Circus Odyssey then moved to Mayaguez its final stand in Puerto Rico, where that city hadn't seen a big circus in nine years and where business was expected to be exceptional.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$12.00 a year

ADVERTISING RATES: Minimum ad \$5.00; Quarter Page \$10.00; Half Page \$15.00; Full Page \$20.00 (Color work is \$10.00 each additional color).

Gerry Cottle is a young man, who has been in the circus business most of his life, but only started his own circus a few years back. He is a man of courage and with a faith in the future of the circus despite the manifold difficulties encountered today. His show has become well known through the weekly showing of "Seaside Specials" televised during the summer months by the BBC using his big top for the programs of circus and vaudeville acts.

..... Jack Niblett

PROGRAMS

No. 1 - That Year 1938

1. Barnes-Sells Floto (before Redfield)
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3. Barnes-Sells Floto with R.B.B.B. features

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MAGIC

The Magic Castle's "Academy of Magical Arts" awards dinner was held last month at the Beverly Wilshire (Los Angeles). The annual event attracted such stars as: Tony Curtis, Cary Grant, June Lockhart, Pat Butrum, Richard Thomas, Bob Lansing and Bob Barker,

The show program featured Tomsoni & Co., John Sebastian Bork, Heidi Larsen and Paul Fidler and his wife. Bob Barker served as the show's M.C.

Winners of the awards were:

Sid Lorraine, Lecturer of the Year; Jules Lenier, Close-up Magician of the Year; Billy McComb, Visiting Magician; Johnny Thompson, stage magician of the year; Doug Henning, magician of the year; Les Levante, masters fellowship; Neil Foster and Roy Benson, performing fel-

PEOPLE

RALPH HARTMAN, of San Antonio, writes to say that about 1970 he saw an act on Ringling-Barnum similar to the one Liane Stanek is now doing. He says "an acrobatic display began with the house lights off. Then spot lights picked up a young lady standing on the flyers platform at one end of the arena. She made a beautiful swan dive off into the dark space, and her adagio partners on the below caught her. The lights came on and the show started. I have checked my programs and none of them list the act, but it was there."

lowships; John Booth, literary fellowship and Paul Curry, creative fellowship.

Awards of Merit were made to: David Copperfield, Jerry Blount, Lew Horwitz, Dick Arthur and the TV Show Celebrity Review, for doing a week of magic.

Circus Books Galore

from The World of Books

The World of Clowns by Bishop (Brand New)	\$20.00
Circus, Lure and Legend by Fenners	\$ 2.98
Mud Show - A Circus Season by Powledge	\$ 10.95
Karl Wallenda by Ron Morris (Autographed)	\$ 8.95
Amazing Ringlings and Their Circus by Plowden	\$ 3.98
Ticket To The Circus by Charles Fox	\$ 3.98
Humbug by Neil Harris	\$ 2.98

Merle Evans - Maestro of the Circus by Plowden (Only 3 left) . . .	\$ 4.95
Gargantua, Circus Star of the Century by Plowden	\$ 2.98
Tiger, Tiger - 25 Years with Big Cats by Chas. Bauman	\$ 9.95
Circus Days (paperback) by Jill Freeman - 100 black-and-white photos	\$ 6.95
Another Brand New Book - Just Out CIRCUS, A World History by Rupert Croft-Cooke and Peter Coles - 32 pages full color, plus 200 black/white photos	\$14.95

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THE WORLD OF BOOKS

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BILLY BARTON . . .

RUDY and CAROLINE JACOBI have incorporated under the title of PACIFIC SHOW OPERATING CO. Inc., and the name of their circus, appearing outdoors under a canopy tent bought from DIAMOND S RODEO, and in buildings, coast-to-coast, will be called CIRCUS CAROL. The show opens April 30th in Concord (Calif) and the route extends until late fall.

SNAPSHOTS: The WAZZAN troupe to STEBBINGS EUROPEAN for the balance of the season...BUMPY FAMILY visited BILL KAY's Madison (Wisc) date enroute to Youngstown for HUBLER, report an excellent, hi-quality show....VENO VENITO spent his time in San Juan Scuba Diving when he wasn't out "parrot hunting".....BOBBY GIBBS bought an elephant for DOREY MILLER in Puerto Rico which now brings Dorey's herd to his dreamed of goal of 50!RUDY JACOBI advises that the "Austrian State Circus" is not a recently acquired show, and that he owns more than half of it!....JERRY BEEMAN's Rocket Ship act called KRONOS, "King of the Cosmos" was built by WIRENGARD and the rigging is based on the original "Wirengard" design...BOBBY GIBBS who bought a "load of llamas," plus some midget donkeys, in Puerto Rico is now playing dates for ED-DIE ZACCHINI, ditto the GUTIS.....TIBI & EVA YOUNG, enroute to L.A. to enplane for Japan....The ALEXANDERS (teeterboard) also enroute to Lotus Land, stopped off to play Dodge City (Kans) for HUBLER.

LOOK OUT WORLD! SUSAN MARTINEZ (Cemon's Chimps), after innumerable tries and one wrecked vehicle, FINALLY got her driver's license!....Circus Vargas blew some shows in Arlington (Tex) when the lot became a "Lake Erie"....WIRENGARDS have shipped WALLY NAGHTIN's new bear props to him...SANDY DOBRITCH's star is "on the rise." He is booking acts in Vegas for MERV GRIFFIN, for the new POLACK CIRCUS, for Circus Odyssey, and producing his own dates. "I'm handling only class acts," writes Sandy who is upset over the fire that destroyed all of RAY HARTZELL's musical equipment. (About \$25,000 worth).

I thought I had seen the end of Red, White and Blue once the Bicentennial was finished, but I hadn't. The party for VASHEK in San Juan the night he returned from Miami as an American Citizen was so patriotic one almost had to take the "oath" just to enter the room!

NEWS BITS: The long awaited "live music" on SELLS

& GRAY is provided by BOB & KAY PARKER (organ and drums)....BEATTY-COLE has a "space wheel" act....PATTI WUDTKE is breaking a "cat act" (house cats)...None of the Sells & Gray or King trucks has the new titles painted on them....The BEROSINI Chimpanzee-Orangutan act, which is a comedy riot, leaves BUSCH GARDENS in Florida where it has been for three years and heads to the MGM GRAND in Las Vegas.

ROSE ADAIR set Veno Venito, The Bumpy Family, Karol's Birds, Cimses Dogs, The Stevens, Prince Najvez, The Quassars, Sheryll's Afgans and The Zoppe Rhesus Monkeys on recent EMMETT KELLY, Jr., dates....DAVIDE ZOPPE writes their Black Celebese Ape seems to be "turning into a gorilla," that it recently got a "fang" into Johnny, Sr. Johnny was hospitalized and stitches were needed. Because of infection, however, the doctors decided to leave the wound open. Johnny was back in the act post-haste. As Dave says: "No way could he let a thing like that stop him!"

To cork little JANA VASHEK's tears, the tot has been bribed with so many lollipops she could open her own candy store....WALT KING is trying to outdo BOBBY GIBBS in a "form letter" competition. Forget it, Walt! The King's have a beautiful new home in the Detroit area....Reports are that young REGGIE ROBERTSON may well be our new juggling sensation. Already up to 9 rings, 6 clubs and intricate combinations....The COMMANCHEROS got snow-bound in March enroute to a Castle date....The GUTIS make Lincoln for GRACE & CHUCK....REX WILLIAMS has his animal package on SAM POLACK's New Orleans date. Sam is playing Mt. Clemens again this year, under canvas....Everyone remarked that RUDY JACOBI, who brought his wife to San Juan for a delayed honeymoon, has never looked so youthful and energetic. His new wife, CAROLINE, was a HUGE success with all...a lovely, witty gal who is GREAT fun!

CHERI TROY closed at OLD CHICAGO the end of March. Her CB handle is "SILLY PUTTY". Cheri sent me a long list of other "handles" I'll release from time-to-time....LILLI & SVEND KRISTENSEN, PHIL & FRANCINE, and GEE GEE ENGESER were all parked at TONY DIANO's in March and playing Volleyball nightly to "keep the waist-lines"

(Continued on Page 13)

ROUTES

Beatty-Cole Bros. Combined
Apr. 10-13 Columbus, Ga.
14-17 Albany

Carson & Barnes Circus
Apr. 3 Deer Park, Texas
4 Cleveland
5 Navasota
7 San Antonio
8 Beeville
9-10 Austin
11 Kerrville
12 Burnet
13 Mexia
14 Terrell
15 Bridgeport
16 Gainesville

Chinese Circus
Apr. 8-13 San Francisco, Cal.

Circus Vargas
Apr. 11 Downey, Calif.
12-14 Whittier
15-18 West Covina

Hamid-Morton Circus
Apr. 11-17 Wilkes Barre, Pa.

Holiday Hippodrome
Apr. 13 Niles, Mich;

Hagen-Wallace-Sells & Gray
Apr. 11 Avon Park, Fla.
12 Orlando
13 Gainesville
14 Madison
15 Tallahassee
16 Blakely, Ga.
17 Cuthbert

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Apr. 11 Augusta, Ga.
12 Anderson, N.C.
13 Clinton
14-15 Columbia
16 Florence

Hoxie's Great American Circus
Apr. 11 St. Marys, Ga.
12 Baxley
13 Milan
14 Swainsboro
15 Sanderville
16 Allendale, S.C.

Int'l All Star Circus
Apr. 11 Reading, Pa.
12 Plymouth Meeting
13 West Chester
14 Valley Forge
15 Trenton, N.J.
16 Asbury Park

Sam T. Polack Circus
Apr. 15-16 Little Rock, Ark.

King Bros.-Cole Combined
Apr. 11 Waycross, Ga.
12 Brunswick
13 Rincon
14 Statesboro

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
to Apr. 17 Washington, DC

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
to June 5 New York, N. Y.

Royal Hanneford Circus
April 9 Charleston, W. Va.

Shrine Circus
Apr. 15-17 Terre Haute, Ind.

Big John Strong Circus
Apr. 11 Atascadero, Calif.

12 Paso Robles
13 Taft
14 Shafter
15 Tulare
16 Visalia
17 Fresno

Miscellaneous

The Chinese Circus originally set to play both Berkeley and San Francisco early this month was rescheduled for San Francisco only Apr. 8-13.

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NOTICE

On March 3, 1977 Judge Robert Fainer issued a Court Order in the Superior Court of California for the County of Los Angeles ordering CARRELL J. KAYE (also known as Judy Kaye, Carrell Jacobs, Judy Jacobs and "Tink") to forthwith return to me (a) three female elephants, (b) 1970 Peterbilt diesel tractor, (c) 40 foot Fruehauf semi-trailer (including contents), and (d) Chrysler automobile.

The contents of that Court Order were subsequently published in the March 21, 1977 issue of "The Circus Report".

Since that time, CARRELL J. KAYE has absconded with said property and she (and her conspirators) are presently in unlawful flight.

WARNING

Any person (or persons) aiding or abetting CARRELL J. KAYE in said unlawful flight and/or illegally concealing from me the whereabouts of said property may be charged as an accomplice or accessory.

Public notice is hereby given that I shall institute any and all possible legal proceedings (civil and/or criminal) against any party found to be conspiring with CARRELL J. KAYE (or others) to wrongfully withhold said property from my lawful possession.

\$1,000 - REWARD - \$1,000

For information leading to the apprehension of said CARRELL J. KAYE and the recovery of said property.

Paul V. Kaye

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Show Notes

Featuring four acts from the Redlands YMCA Great All-American Youth Circus, Marriott's Great American amusement park in Santa Clara (Calif) marked opening day ceremonies with a special VIP luncheon, with a 45 minute circus performance.

Guests for the noontime festivities, including executives and their families of the Marriott Corp., and several major airline companies, were treated to balloons, popcorn, cotton candy and a chicken basket meal while the park's Warner Bros. animal characters cavorted and circus acts provided entertainment.

The giant Northern California amusement park and an identical park in the Chicago area, now in their second year of operation, are owned by the Marriott Corp., well known for its first-class hotel chain, Bob's Big Boy and Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor restaurants. In addition to 28 rides, restaurants, shops and the theme park, built around five eras of American history, presents four live shows including the Circus in the Grandstand Pavilion of the Country Fair area.

In addition to the double trapeze, teeterboard, unicycle and trampoline acts from Redlands, the circus featured a magic illusion, an elephant and the Merlitz Jugglers.

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ATTENTION

Effective with this issue of Circus Report the paper will be mailed earlier in the week. This means you will be receiving your copy much earlier than in the past. As a result it should be able to offer better advance route information so you can plan to visit circuses coming into your local areas.

Miscellaneous

At last reports the Mexican circus headed for a tour in the U. S. had not yet arrived in Texas. Some rumors indicate the show is having problems obtaining visas and other permits that are required by U. S. law.

Rumor has it that several eastern shows will be heading for the west this year. Some reportedly will come as far west as California.

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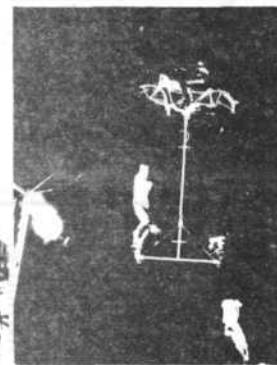
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April 11, 1977

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PEOPLE

DAVE COLEMAN is confined to the the Alphonsus Hospital at Boise (Idaho) following a car accident.

JOHNNY and BARBARA LUXEM (Wheel of Destiny) and the FLYING LAR-RAYS have been signed to perform at the annual Milwaukee (Wisc) Summerfest in June.

BILL BRICKLE has his Poodle Revue set for some shopping center and fair dates after he completes the tour with the Hamid-Morton Circus.

BENZINE, the clown, still keeps active in the business. He started his career in 1917 with the Barnes show, worked on Gentry, Sells Floto and other shows.

LYLE SCOTT (Scotty, the Clown) visited with BOB EMRICO when he was working his magic show in the Northern California area.



The Circus Report

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HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS

Hoxie Bros. Big Top Circus opened to four packed houses for its two-day sell-out stand in West Palm Beach (Mar. 19-20) and business has remained at a healthy level throughout its Florida trek. At this time the Hoxie Circus is zig-zagging northward into the Carolinas and then into West Virginia,

Florida has seen an unusual conglomerate of circuses in its state at the same time, including both Hoxie shows, Beatty-Cole, King-Cole, the Sells & Gray and the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus.

On April 9th, Hoxie's Great American day-and-dated the King-Cole show at New Smyrna Beach, playing about two miles apart.

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CROWD PLEASER

The Oak View Elementary School in Fairfax, Va., staged its 9th Annual Physical Education Show at nearby Robinson Secondary School Fieldhouse on Mar. 23rd before an audience of 3,500 spectators.

Under the direction of Jim Moyer and Cathy Nolen, over 700 Oak View students presented a variety of activities including low tightwire, rolling globe, Roman ladders, pyramids, tumbling, Gymnastics, unicycles, 7-man bicycle, parachute dances, modern dance, juggling, rola bola, German gym wheel, plate spinning, rope twirling, stilt walking and marching drills.

A small unit of Oak View students using the above activities put on many half-time shows at high school and college basketball games in the Washington, DC area and appeared several times on local TV stations.

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PEOPLE

WALLY NAGHTIN, bear trainer, will be a featured guest on the Merv Griffin Show on TV on April 15th.

ED RUSSELL, circus ringmaster, appeared as a special guest on TV's "Hollywood Squares" Show last week.

ELVIN BALE, aerialist, will be a feature act with Circus Vargas starting with the 1978 season.

IT'S A GIRL

ROLAND and MARCIA NATAL are the proud parents of a baby girl (Cherie Lee) born in Santa Rosa, Calif., at 11:30 p.m. on March 23rd. The new arrival weighed in at 7 lb. 10 oz.

Cherie's parents are game concession owners on the Foley & Burk Shows and prior to that appeared in many circuses with their hand balancing and trapeze acts. Roland is the son of Natal, the original Monkey Man.

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

down!...GEORGE FOREMAN (the fighter), who owns a lion and MANUEL RUFFIN were very buddy-buddy during the ABC Wide World of Sports shindig in San Juan.

When ROWENA THOMAS called Harry's tigers "striped rabbits" she wasn't kidding. Less than a week after Pasha had twin cubs, another mama tiger had FOUR. Harry uses 10 tigers in his act, so BOBBY GIBBS quipped, "you got more than half a new act already."

See you down the road, luvv.

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ROUTES

Lee Grabel & Co. (Magic)
Apr. 11-12 Eugene, Oregon
15 Salem

Ken Griffin (Magic)
Apr. 11 Miami, Okla.
12 Lebanon, Mo.
13 Waynesville
14 Rolla
15 Sullivan
16 Mt. Vernon, Ill.

Prof. Miller & Co. (Magic)
Apr. 14-17 Manchester, N.H.

Olivia Newton-John Show
Apr. 14 Huntsville, Ala.
15 Auburn
16 Columbia, S.C.
17 Murfreesboro

Western Wild Cats
Apr. 1-2 Tauares, Fla.
3 Lady Lake
4-9 Jesup, Ga.
10 Lady Lake, Fla.

The big CFA Convention at Las Vegas — June 16-18, an event you won't want to miss. Mail your reservations today to: J. Allen Duffield, P. O. Box 69, Camp Hill, Pa. 17011.

Registration fee before May 1st is \$44.00 for adults and after that date will be \$49.00.

"BIGFOOT"

J. P. THERON, appearing with the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit as The Great Bruno, break away sway pole act, has been named "Big Foot" by his fellow performers.

His identification with the legendary "Big Foot" was prompted because his shadow, cast against the building walls by a spotlight, is almost an exact resemblance of this famed creature.

WANTED

CIRCUS ORGANIST
For 1977 Season

With or Without Organ
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Oregon Date

The Oregon Shrine Club Circus, produced by Hubert Castle, was presented this year at the new gymnasium at Willamette University. In the past the circus has been presented at the Armory in Salem (Ore).

The show here featured: Joe Hartman, lions and tigers; Clown egg gag; Doubleday 4 Co., gorilla parody; Camels and Llamas; Rosaire's dressage horses; Dennis Sherman, sponge dive; the Olmedas, bikes and juggling; Lee Marx, juggling; The Drouettes, juggling; Pam's Chimps; Dale Harney, escape artist; Capt. Circus, an aerial cradle act; the Markovitch Troupe, giant swing; Intermission and novelty sales.

The second half included: Pam's dogs; Wilson's Pets; The Freddies, unsupported ladders; The Kalmes, perch act; The Martinez Trio, head balancing; Doug Ashton, trumpet and knock-about; Derrick Rosaire and Tony, the horse; Four girls on web with the Commacheros in a cradle and iron jaw number; The Cannestrellis, trampoline; The Marios, hat jugglers; Circus elephants, presented by the Pinsons.

The show's announcer was Ed Russell and the clowns included: Gene Randow, Lee Marx, Mike Padilla.

..... David E. Reid

WANTED

Bottom Man Needed for Teeterboard Act
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The Hernandez Troupe
* * *

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A LOOK AT

The Big John Strong Circus opened its 1977 season on April 1st at Oxnard (Calif.) and will now remain on tour until late in the year. The show will move east, then into Canada, before heading back to the west coast.

This year the show has a brand new blue and red big top, built by the Leaf Tent Co. The top is an 80 ft. round end with two 20 ft. and one 30 ft. middle.

Show personnel will include: John A. Strong, Jr., owner/Manager/MC; John A. J. Strong, advance/clowning on stilts/juggling and owner/manager of the side show; James H. (Wally) Wallentin, supt./canvas boss/concession mgr.; William H. (Bill) Schreiber, gen. mgr./dog act/pony act/front door; Don (Poco) Young, producing clown/juggling; John Maguire, clown; Sam Skinner, fire eating/human pin cushion/props; Chris DeWayne, web/rapeze/swinging ladder/elephant; Julian Sylvester, animal dept./chimp act/elephant assistant; Diane Hagood, dog act/web/ladder/clown; Sandy Strong, novelties/trained macaw; Gudrun Strong, menage horse; Nicole Strong, menage horse/ladder; Bill Burger, advance; Tommy Burger, tent crew/props; Tim Janssen, welder/driver/tent crew; a novelty trampoline act and other numbers are to be added to the program. In May Robin and Miguel will add their aerial acts to the circus performance.

TROUBLE AHEAD (Continued)

It was Sue Pressman who rescued the Bengal tiger that was to have opposed karate expert Yamamoto in a fight to the death in Haiti. She brought the tiger to the U. S. and is currently negotiating to place it in a zoo.

"The tiger was a pussycat," says Sue. "I stuck my hand in the cage and we made tigery sounds at each other. Why, that karate champ could have killed this tiger with his bare hands."

Her next Humane Society assignment? Operating as an undercover agent in a circus.

She spent most of the past two years investigating animal abuses in TV and film work. "In 99.44% of all cases," she says, "film animals are badly cared for or badly housed. Unfortunately, some are mistreated on all three counts."

Show Acts

The Milwaukee (Wisc) Sports, Travel & Boat Show (Mar. 11-20) featured the following performers for its all-free Stage-Tank Show.

Color Guard and National Anthem; Cypress Gardens Water Skiers with trick and adagio skiing, ramp jumping and their famous pyramid; Monty Lynch and Duke, billed as the "world's smartest hunting dog"; Pennsylvania Anglers; a sharp-shooting demonstration; Log Rolling/Canoe Tilting with Judy Scheer, Don Jacobsm, Jimmy Ogle and Mike Isham; Sir Victor Julian and his Little Stars; Dieter Tasso, slack wire; Wes Harrison, "Mr. Sound Effects"; The Great Gungas, balancing act; Johnny Matson, M.C.

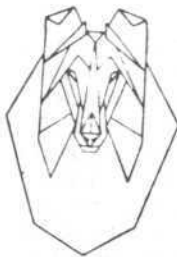
The show was backed by the Steve Swedish Orchestra. Two shows were presented on weekdays and Sundays, with three shows on Saturday.

..... Billy Gunga

Miscellaneous

Members of the Orrin B. Davenport/Jake Mills CFA Tent No. 89, of Cleveland (Ohio) opened their season on March 19th when they visited the George Hubler Circus at Youngstown. New officers elected for the coming year are: Ed Jones, president; Jerry Harshman, vice president and Jean Jones, secretary.

The King Bros.-Cole Circus will play Middletown, R.I., on June 16th, not at Providence as was previously announced.



ANGELA WILNOW

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Shocking Report

A type of story that is becoming all too frequent appears in the March 29th issue of "National Enquirer". Called "The Appalling Plight of Circus Animals in the U.S." author Leon Wagener writes about the mistreatment of animals traveling with circuses.

"The circus, that seemingly innocent big tent of fun, can be a chamber of horrors for its animals — who are all too often mistreated, underfed and beaten," says the author.

Some of the statements are:

Sue Pressman, director of wildlife protection for the Humane Society of the U.S.: "Recently in Baltimore I saw a trainer spend 45 minutes beating a kangaroo in the face with a workman's glove to teach it to box. At another circus I saw four tigers in a 4x8 ft box. The Austin Humane Society (Texas) confiscated two lions. One was dead and half eaten, the other had to be put to sleep. Other animals were in a horrible condition. A man was poking at a baby elephant with a pen-knife and was drawing blood.

Ruth Deschene, executive director of the Minnesota Humane Society: The county attorney has a warrant for the arrest of a circus that played here last summer. Their horses were so thin they stood with their legs apart to support themselves. Several lions were in a small cage with inches of filth on the bottom. They were all very thin. They had baboons in a cage so small they couldn't stand up. The goats were in 3 to 4 in. of wet filth. None of the animals had water, it was a beastly hot day, and there was no shade.

Cecile O'Marr, field representative for the Defenders of Wildlife: I went to a circus in Maryland when the sun was blazing and the heat was oppressive. The animals were in a truck. They were crashing against the sides crying, growling and roaring. The truck couldn't be opened because if people saw the animals for free they wouldn't pay to see them. An employee finally opened the truck and put in two trays of water for five animals. The stench was unbearable. The animals pounced on the water, spilling it, they licked the tray tops and bottoms, turning them over, straining for every drop.

BOOK SALE

Seven Naked Women In A Tokyo Jail
(true Oriental circus life) . . . \$20.00

Dapples of the Circus \$ 2.50
(a children's book)

Tanbark and Tinsel \$ 4.00
(by Kunzog)

One Horse Show, Dan Rice . . \$ 7.50
(by Kunzog)

16 mm color sound film - 400 ft. - Includes lion act and perch act - was filmed in Europe \$20.00

Wardrobe material - Leopard, Snake-skin, Dumbo \$10.00

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STRANGE LAWS

A Florida law forbids the transportation of any live stock in a school bus.

An Illinois law prohibits teaching household pets to smoke a cigar.

In Los Angeles it is illegal to shoot at a hare or jack rabbit from a trolley car

George Tuscher, director of the Humane Work Division of the ASPCA in New York: The training of animals in the winter quarters of circuses — where no one can see it — is often cruel. The animals are frequently beaten by the trainers. The cages are small. Horses are often put on bedding that causes a lot of dust and can cause emphysema.

Needless to say, the good and concerned animal people are not mentioned. There is little news value about those people whose major concern is the care and health of their animals. It's the cruelty that makes the headlines.

Unfortunately, the above people are those in a position to fight for and push laws concerning animal welfare and they never slow down in their efforts to achieve their goals. Animal owners, circuses and others will have to work hard to protect their business and to shake off the shame heaped upon them by some of their fellow workers — people who shouldn't even be in the business!

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YEARS AGO

Pittsfield, Mass. - July 19, 1928
Miller Bros. 101 Ranch Wild West

The Miller Bros. 101 Ranch Wild West Show arrived here from Springfield at 10:15 a.m. in one train of 23 cars - 10 flat cars, 7 horse cars and 6 sleepers, with 36 wagons, and 6 trucks.

The show was all unloaded at 1 p.m. and they held their parade at 2 p.m., following it with the afternoon show at 4 p.m. The evening show got underway at 8 p.m.

The parade featured 26 sections, 13 wagons, 12 oxen, 9 steers, 16 buffaloes, 5 camels and 6 elephants.

The show tents are: Arena, side show, wardrobe, band, elephant, two horse tents, dressing tent, cookhouse and five candy stands.

The baggage wagons and cars are painted yellow; the tab wagons and trucks are red, white and blue. They are carrying two electric light plants, ticket wagon, a heavy truck and four Mack trucks.

A wagon is used as the pit show with a gorilla or ape. The side show has a talking horse, midget s and their baby, with four banners, two ticket boxes. The big side show has minstrels, a band, Indians, giant, giantess, fat girl, fortune reader, snakes, bag puncher, sword illusion, Punch & Judy, with 16 banners, one over the entrance, an outside stage, and two ticket boxes.

The cookhouse and horse tents were down at

6 p.m. and the side show came down at 9 p.m. The big show was over at 10:30 p.m. and within an hour everything was loaded and shortly after was on the cars. The train left here for Albany, N.Y.

North Adams, Mass. - July 30, 1928
Gentry Bros. Circus

The Gentry Bros. Circus arrived here from a day at Greenfield in one train of 12 cars - 5 flat cars, 4 stock cars, and 3 sleepers with 21 wagons.

Their tents include: big top, side show, menagerie, dressing room, cookhouse, kitchen, horse tent and two candy stands.

Animals are 6 elephants, 2 camels and 4 zebras. Inside the big top they have two rings and a stage. Two shows were given to good crowds and at night they have the swinging ladders lit with all the other lights turned off.

The train is of steel cars and wagons are all red. Seating in the big top is ten rows high.

The cookhouse and horse tents were down early, while the side show and menagerie were taken down right after the night show started. Most canvas was loaded into the wagons by means of a derrick attached to the wagon side.

The train was completely loaded and pulled out at 2 a.m., heading for Westfield.

A flea circus may be a good act, but it takes termites to bring down the house.

Circus Vargas

Circus fans will be happy to know that the old-time traditional circus show is alive and prosperous. The 1977 Circus Vargas is replete with lively music, flashy costumes, funny clowns, lots of animals and breath-taking thrill acts. Even though the sawdust and big top were missing at the performance in Las Cruces (N.M.) on Mar. 23 (and I was disappointed at not seeing the new top) the atmosphere and excitement were authentic.

The show played its two performances at the Pan American Center in Las Cruces in the open air. The lighted rigging presented a spectacular sight in the clear desert night air. Sponsored by the Las Cruces Firemen's Assoc., the show played to almost full houses and no one left disappointed. Even the blowing dust that accompanied the matinee performance could not dull the luster of this outstanding show.

Music, that most essential ingredient of a circus' special magic, was a prime element in the success of the Vargas production. Under the direction of Jim Gibson, the band exhibited first-rate musical talent, backing the acts with a superb blend of traditional circus marches, contemporary themes and original music, expertly woven into the tapestry of the show.

The band features 9 musicians (2 sax/clarinet players, flute, bass, baritone, 3 trumpets and drums). Their excellence and virtuosity are truly an outstanding feature of this altogether excellent show.

One of the best acts of its kind I've seen anywhere were the Great Golden Carlos Twins whose mixture of acrobatics and contortions were precisely choreographed and executed.

Running a close second were the Klementis bicycle act in a fast and flawless performance.

Young and handsome Roger Regor, high wire artist, was another real crowd pleaser and an expert, flashy performer.

There are in fact, no bad acts in this show, which also features the Flying Lantons, Frank & Estrelleta, cradle, Miss Jan, single trapeze, Miss Loni, Barbara Ann and Ruben, foot jugglers, Francarro and Senorita Magoly, head balancing trapeze.

Well groomed and well trained animal acts also contribute importantly to the show. Cemone's chimps are adorable and well behaved and Wally Naghtin's bears give a first-rate act with a Russian theme. The liberty horses are trained and presented by Sir William Baker and son, Tom. General Vargas is a horse, ridden and trained by Miss Christina. The elephants perform under the direction of Col. Wallace Ross and the lions and tigers are commanded with authority by Pat Anthony.

Owner/Manager Clifford Vargas is dedicated to continuing the tradition of the big show under canvas and the excitement and pacing of this show indicate a great season for the ensemble. Don't miss the show when it plays in your area.

..... Greg Taylor

Tell A Friend and subscribe yourself - order your Circus Report now from: Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. - 94530.

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SOON MISS
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UM COME IN.

