



8th Year

June 11, 1979

Number 24

Fire Suspects Face Trial

Two young men accused of arson in an attempt to burn the Big John Strong Circus tent are being held at Blythe, Calif., with bail set at \$50,000 each. Both Michael Ackerman (17) and Gregory Olson (19) have been ordered to stand trial at California's Indio Superior Court, with Ackerman to be tried as an adult.

A friend of Olson and Ackerman, 18 year old Kenneth Forrest was promised immunity against prosecution for his part in the alleged arson, for his testimony against the other two.

According to Forrest, Olson paid for gasoline bought at a Sun Gold Liquor Gas Store. Later at the hearing a part-time store clerk identified Olson as the person who bought a half gallon of gas with four dimes.

Forrest said the youths drove back to the circus, which was presenting its second performance of the day. Ackerman left the car carrying the gas can to the circus tent.

Both Olsen and Forrest were in the car when the fire started. They all left together, he added.

Earlier Forrest said both suspects had been drinking from large wine bottles. He denied he was drunk or under the influence of drugs while

with the other two.

L. J. Griep, a circus performer and publicity man with the show, identified Ackerman in the courtroom and said he saw a bottle of wine in Ackerman's hand. It was poured out by the youth at his request, Griep said.

"I said 'thank you' to him and was abused verbally," Griep said.

(Continued on Page 8)

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PEOPLE

PAUL TAMBOURY (Sad Sam the Clown) is running for City Councilman at Petaluma, Calif.

PAT DAVISON (Juggler) can be reached at the following address: 3612 - 17th Ave., South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55407. Phone: 612-722-0831.

WALLY LEE & LINDA, magic act, have returned to their California home after playing dates in the Mid-western states.

EDUARDO PALACIOS, of the Flying Dell Steeles, now appearing at Circus Circus in Reno, recently helped in an experiment with a new camera. The new 35 mm Pentax ME Camera was taped to his belt for some unusual action shots during the flying act.

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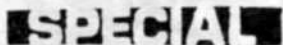
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An AP release of late last month reports the Moslem Shrine Temple of Detroit must stop promoting its annual circus as a charity fund-raising event because it is not a registered charity.

Michigan's Attorney General, Frank Kelley, said that Shriners have been violating a state law for years by publicizing that money from the circus goes to benefit crippled children.

The Moslem temple is a non-charitable, tax-paying fraternal association, and not a registered charity, Kelley said. Only registered charities may claim money goes for philanthropic purposes, he added.

Milton Maddin, Shrine attorney, said the Moslem temple has signed a consent agreement with the state prohibiting it from advertising that the proceeds of the circus goes to charity.

Madden and Shrine officials did not disclose how much money was raised at their 1979 circus, or how much of it was directed towards charity.

PEOPLE

ANN JILLIAN is featured in the stage show "Sugar Babies" with MICKEY ROONEY and ANN MILLER in which she sings and works with a group of trained doves.

STEWART J. WAGHORN (Rosaire, Hundcross Rd., Staplefield, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH 17 6 EF, England) has the first of a series of full color prints of European shows available. The first print is one of the Chipperfield's Circus Tent and is a limited edition. It sells for \$6.00 which includes postage and handling.

DALE HARNEY, magician who toured with the Hubert Castle Circus for several years, is now working at the "Magic Palace" in Calgary.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is compiled and edited by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530 - Phone: (415) 525-3332

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SHOW DATES

Beatty-Cole Circus

June 11 Gettysburg, Pa.
12-14 Muncy
15-17 Selinsgrove

Bentley Bros. Circus

June 13 Richmond, Calif
14 Bakersfield
16-17 San Bernardino

Big John Strong Circus

June 10-11 St. Louis, Mo.
12 Danville, Ill.
13-14 Indianapolis, Ind

Carden & Johnson Circus

June 12-14 Hastings, Nebr.
15 Kearney
16-17 Grand Island

Carson & Barnes Circus

June 10 Cahokia, Ill.
11 Sparta
12 Murphysboro
13 Mt. Vernon
14 Fairfield
15 Eureka, Mo.
16 De Soto

Hubert Castle Circus

June 11 Vernon, B.C.
12 Kelowna
13 Penticton
14-15 Courtney
16-17 Nanaimo

All C. Hill Productions Present

Great American Circus

June 11 Punxsutawney, Pa.
12 Du Bois
13 Clearfield
14 State College
15 Lewistown
16 Mill Hall
17 Milton

Hamid-Morton Circus

June 15-17 Hempstead, L.I.

Tommy Hanneford Circus

to Sept. 12 Middletown, Oh

Happytime Circus

June 11-23 Vallejo, Calif.

Hoxie Bros. Circus

June 11 Kearny, N.J.
12 Pt. Pleasant
13 Berlin
14 Glassboro
15 Wilmington, Dela.
16 Gaithersburg, Md.
17 Laurel

Hubler Int'l Circus

June 14-16 Birmingham, Ala

Bill Kay Circus

June 12-15 Boise, Idaho

Kelly Bros. Circus

June 14 South Bend, Ind.

Lin-Rich Animal Circus

June 12-16 Akron, Ohio

Monte Carlo Circus

June 12-13 Savannah, Ga.
15-17 Macon

Moolah Shrine Circus

June 14-18 St. Louis, Mo.

Pickle Family Circus

June 16-17 Sacramento, Cal.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

June 12-13 Huntsville, Ala.
15-17 Memphis, Tenn.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

to June 17 Philadelphia, Pa.

Shrine Circus

June 14-17 Sacramento, Cal.

Wenatchee Youth Circus

June 16 Portland, Oregon
17 Salem

---- MAGIC ----

Blackstone, Jr. Magic Show

June 11-16 Buffalo, NY

Int'l Magic Show

June 11 Daytona Bch, Fla.
12 Ocala
13 Gainesville
15 Panama City

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA

June 12 Boling Brook, Ill
15-16 Rockford

Tom Ogden - Magician

June 14 San Jose, Calif.
17-30 Hollywood



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---- OTHER DATES ----

Cold Nose Five - Dog Act

June 14-18 St. Louis, Mo.

James H. Drew Exposition

June 11-16 Bluefield, W. Va.

Ethel's Leaping Greyhounds

June 13-19 St. Louis, Mo.

Foley & Burk Shows

June 11-23 Vallejo, Calif.

Hal Haviland - Dogs and Pony

to Oct. 8 Lincoln, N. H.

Kaye Hollywood Elephants

June 13 Richmond, Cal.

14 Bakersfield

16-17 San Bernardino



WHEN THE PAUL KAYE ELEPHANTS were late in arriving for the Dobritch Int'l Police date at Denver, DOREY MILLER, who was playing on the edge of town sent three babies over for part of the run, coming with the animals personally, along with MANUEL KING and LUCY LOYALE. This is an act of cameraderie rarely seen in our business anymore, when one show would help out the other for the good of our business as a whole, which was more the rule than the exception in other times, but which is only to be expected of a veteran showman of the Dorey Miller breed.

The Carson & Barnes four day engagement in Denver (over lapping the indoor Police date by one day) was fraught with hardships - a muddy lot, and a heavy snow storm. The show finally moved to the parking lot of the Denver Community College and gave three performances Thursday and Friday. Moving to a hard surfaced lot didn't alleviate the show's headaches, however, as they were forbidden to drive stakes and thus "wagon-trained" their trucks round the big top, while praying for calm skies! For 18 days prior to the Denver date the show encountered rain and was also in the tornado that struck Wichita Falls (Tex). LUCY LOYALE told me women and children on the show were evacuated to an auditorium in that city and the show's generator plants were dispatched to light up city hall.

THE baby bulls sent to the Dobritch show had never worked in a building and during the first two shows were fairly oblivious to the change, but on the third show (the second day) the lead bull was spooked by a metal ramp leading into the building which buckled and popped under its feet. Lucy managed to coax the two other elephants into the ring and is to be commended for working an act without the lead bull (and by herself!) Bravo.

CLOSEUPS: The indestructible Bionic Godmother AURELIA HALL is back in the news having undergone at long last that much needed hip operation. The doctors said she would be up and walking in about two weeks, but Aurelia was walking a half-mile per day in ten days! We have come to expect nothing less from this courageous woman! . . . VIRGINIA LEE FENTON is back from her tour of Japan with the Kaye Int'l Circus, agog over her fascinating excursion. . . The Kalamazoo (Mich) Shrine date played in

June by GEORGE CARDEN's Carden-Johnson Circus 3rd unit is a first. . . Among acts spot dating the units recently are AERIALETTA, THE GERALDOS, JO-ANN & SUNNY, JAMES ZOPPE RIDERS and ETHEL'S GREYHOUNDS. . . KARL and SHEILA WINN leave in early July for a 7 week stint at a Tokyo Amusement Park in Japan. . . Meanwhile the couple built a Bavarian Alpine home (three story) on their 12 acre ranch located off I-5 near Medford (Ore) . . . JOSE BARREDA accompanied his sons on their recent date with the Dobritch Circus in Denver. Every once in a while Papa gets the itch to travel. . . JIMMY DOUGLASS and VERN WOERNER revamped their Holiday Rambler Utility trailer with a very luxurious front end living quarters complete with crystal chandeliers, a Victorian motif, and - get this - a fireplace. . . Look for the FLYING ESPANAS and the FRANCONI DUO on Circus Vargas in 1980. . . PHIL and LINDA CHANDLER are on their first season with C&B, Phil is ringmaster, Linda is doing traps and her dog act, they team for their illusion novelty, and also have coloring books. . . FAY (Romig) SNYDER who played the Denver Police Circus with her dog and horse acts, is making commercials and film work and recently taped a Little House on the Prairie segment. . . HENRY and IDA MAE CROWELL's daughter was in Denver with Fay. . . BOB TOP and EDNA, FRANK and DORIS GALAMBOS and CAROL and BILL GOLDEN managed to take in Fisherman's Wharf during their San Francisco stint with Carden-Johnson. . . EDNA took a 21 week course in belly dancing last winter and then joined a local group of women (some of whom are grandmothers) giving concerts for the Daytona Beach Community College . . . Among the acts scheduled to appear at the Hadi Temple Thanksgiving Circus in Evansville this fall are CUNEO's White Tigers, the CUNEO Elephants, VASHEK & KATHY and the GREAT JOSELITO. . . LUCY LOYALE has been with Dorey Miller owned circuses for 23 years and sends greetings to her uncle TOMMY BENTLEY.

NIGHTMARE ON INTERSTATE 35: Traveling from Waco (Tex) to the Carden-Johnson winter quarters in Seagoville on Apr. 8th, the STINSON bear act's unit broke down on I-35. Immediately the WILNOWS and the GALAMBOS pulled up to lend a hand and, com-

(Continued on Page 16)

Show Report

JUNGLE WONDERS CIRCUS

The Jungle Wonders Wild Animal Circus made stops in central Missouri during the week of May 14-19. The attraction played to receptive audiences and good houses. Owner John "Gopher" Davenport reported the season so far "has been extremely wet, but successful."

The line-up for the program was: Bimbo, the performing elephant, presented by Gary Johnson; The Amazing Victor, high wire; Spec entitled "Talk to the Animals"; Miss Linda's Canines; Cowboy Texas Jack's rope spinning; Miss Yvonne (Stephens) with Frosty, the Educated Pony; Peanut Pitch; Lollo and Molly, with circus juggling; Shaw's Peruvian llama; Miss Leanne (Stephens) performing on the trapeze; Miss Sandra (Fulbright) and her liberty ponies (5); Aerial Ballet; Balloon Sales.

The second portion of the show opened with Miss Yvonne's (Stephens) Dogs; followed by the Circus Pony and his Canine Companion; Princess Magalay, hair hang; Col. Jack Fulbright with his performing stallions, King and Joe; Love a Circus; Victor, the Human Eagle on the cloud swing; Gayle and Gary Johnson, working a group of male Indian elephants. The two hour show moves smoothly under the dir-



WALTER LOGAN has reportedly joined the Ringling Blue Unit where he will be working for BUCKLES WOODCOCK.

THE BALE SISTERS have joined the Beatty-Cole Circus and are getting plenty of newspaper publicity

action of the singing ringmaster, Bud Manley, who teams with circus organist, Peggy Null, for a song during the Spec and the second half of the show. A small, but hard working band of prop men, who were outfitted in attractive blue jumpsuits, supports the performance as well. The show is lighted by electrician, Allen.

The midway contains a children's petting zoo, with llamas, a baby buffalo, a zebra, camel, donkey, mid-get burro, little horse and numerous goats; a free menagerie of a rhino, bear, lion and tiger; an elephant ride and pony ride; a snake show and concessions operated by Jack Gobble.

The rolling stock consists of five semis and three straight-bed trucks. The big top, the former Circus Vargas side show top, is in good shape. The crew of five workmen is supervised by Jack Carson.

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THANKS AGAIN BETTY

.... *Frank Dean*

CIRCUS GENOA . . .

by Rev. George C. Bingaman

John and Hazel Frazier brought their Circus Genoa to Elysburg, Pa., on May 23rd, in the midst of a prolonged spell of rain which did not deter the show from making a fine appearance in the well groomed Community Park, an excellent circus lot.

This fine mud show sports three rings in a large big top and proudly presents one of the best tented circus bands on the road, under the snappy direction of veteran bandmaster Charles Stevenson and including eight windjammers and drummer.

The circus moves on 20 private trailers and a motorized caravan which includes spool wagon, stake driver, pole wagon, light plant, ticket trailer, cookhouse, repair shop, 2 cage trailers, large horse semi, 2 bull vans carrying 7 elephants and a fine cat act including 8 lions and tigers. The menagerie includes a gibbon, baboon, lion, tiger, leopard, jaguar, bears and others. A diversified program of performing skills is sprinkled with animal acts including the bulls, horses, dogs, goats, guanaco. Ringmaster Ken "Turtle" Benson keeps the show moving. In his first year in the big cage Kenny Benwah is at home presenting the lions and tigers in an impressive opening spectacle.

The midway includes a snake pit, pony ride, bull ride

SUSPECTS FACE TRIAL (Continued)

Ackerman then left, he added. Later Griep said that as he was announcing an act in the circus performance he saw a wall of fire behind a section of seats. He rushed to the fire, tore down a section of sidewall and used a fire extinguisher on the fire. Then he said he saw a flaming can which still contained some gasoline and he kicked it out of the tent.

Stanley L. Wyman, Riverside County Fire Dept., of Blythe, a fire prevention officer, also testified at the hearing. He said he noted a strong odor of gasoline near the burned portion of the tent after the fire had been extinguished.

"There could have been no possible cause of spontaneous combustion," Wyman said. Then he went on to say that the fire was caused from gasoline poured on the tent and ignited by an unknown source.

plus concessions and novelties.

Our congratulations to the Frazier's for a fine show supervised by general manager Paul Hudson, and headed by Jimmy Aldred, electrical supt., Terry Finney, elephants and Larry Sheffield, concessions.

The program was presented in the following manner: Bandmaster Charles Stevenson directing his musicians

(Continued on Page 12)

IN MEMORY

of

BETTY PINNEY

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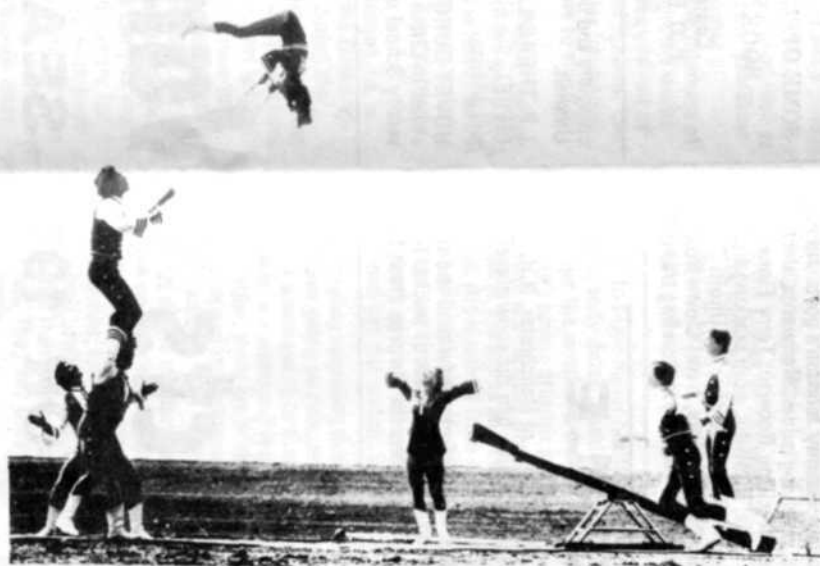


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CIRCUS GENOA (Continued)

in a 30 minute pre-show concert; Kenny Nenwah, lions and tigers; Peanut Pitch; Marguerita, contortion; Don Roberts, hand balancing; webs in three rings; Lazario, cloud swing; Evie Karoly, horses; three rings of rola bola, Don Roberts, Marguerita and daughter, Sammy Johnson; Marie and Don with 2 bulls in end rings; Sammy and his balancing bottle; Alfredo and Onofre's, aerial cradle acts; Juggling by Don and Ken; Evie Karoly's dogs; Sammy Johnson's goats and guano; Cabrells, revolving ladder; Marguerita, slack wire; Egg Balancing; Don Roberto; Terry Finney and 3 elephants; Knife Throwing, whip cracking and rope spinning, featuring Turtle Benson; the Onofri Bros., high wire; Cabrells, Miss Mora, traps; Clown Boxing; three rings of revolving ladder; low casting traps; Closing Spec.

PEOPLE

GEORGE G. KRAUZER, of Manchester, N.H., visited the Ringing Blue Unit when the show played at Portland, Me.

EMMETT KELLY, Jr. reports a new semi and tractor have been added to his show's fleet of trucks. This unit includes living quarters for the prop crew, fully

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J. P. THERON and "HOSSZU" please contact **TOMI LIEBEL**. See his ad in this issue for phone number and address.

HOVEY BURGESS, teacher and author, is teaching a class in Circus Techniques for the New York University School of The Arts - June 11 to July 20th.

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SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

Last month NBC-TV's "Real People" show carried a 8 minute segment about Circus Vargas, with scenes of the big top going up and interviews with Cliff Vargas, Rex Williams and others, including the clowns. Our on ly complaint was a comment by the NBC reporter who said this was the last of the tenters. But it was a good show and a tribute to the circus world.

The current issue of White Tops offers a good look at the Monte Carlo Circus as it is being set up. The show has received ample coverage on these pages.

Recent AP releases have reported on the shipment of elephants from Africa to zoos throughout the world. In all 25 baby African elephants were shipped out of South Africa aboard Boeing 747 "combi" planes. The elephants weigh about 1,000 lbs each, air freight runs about \$2,400 each, and the animals have to stand for the long flights.

The CFA's Convention will be at Gettysburg, Pa. on June 10-13 and it is fitting that the Emmett Kelly CFA Tent was its sponsor, a real tribute to the late clown. A number of top Beatty-Cole personalities were to be honored, and the latest issue of White Tops carried a front cover photo of Frank McClosky.

The La. Purchase Garden & Zoo in Monroe, La. is enjoying good summer crowds. DoDo the Clown appears there regularly each Sunday and during the week he has been working without make-up, handling crowd control at the front gate. The zoo offers school discounts and weekdays finds the parking lot is filled with buses of school children. People continue to be amazed at the cleanliness of the zoo and its facilities. This is a credit to administrator John Hassion and the zoo's curator Jake Yelverton, whose combined talent keeps this zoo in top shape. Where else can you enjoy hundreds of animals, birds, flowers and scenery for just a \$1.00 bill, even less for youngsters. Both boat and train rides are available at 40c each, and the train is the only coal burning engine in the south (that I have knowledge of). It and the boat winds through areas that are not accesible by those walking around the zoo.

Speaking of DoDo, his summer schedule is filling up

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PEOPLE

JACK KING is now in his third year as band leader, arranger, organist and choreographer with the Magic Time USA Show. Jack and STEVE MITCHELL did the two special numbers this year which are "Star Wars" and "Metamorphosis."

THE VOLARES, a flying act consisting of LISA HARTZELL, EVA DUNLEAVY, CATHY FLETCHER and MICHAEL REDPATH, is featured at Circus Circus in Reno through July 6th.

BINGO, the Clown, will be working at Magic Mountain for the summer season.

RAY "Sabu" MOREAU, elephant historian, is working on a history of Jumbo and doing research in Canada.

fast. Due to some minor health problems he had to skip some early dates. Another CFA'r who is temporarily under the weather is Harold Causey, of McComb (Miss). He's having arthritis problems.

Art Stone was recently honored for his many years of service in the drama and theatre arts of several universities. Art is retired from Louisiana Tech, of Ruston, La., and with his wife Bea, now follows his clown hobby and the circus on a full-time basis. Due to the recent death of his brother, Art and Bea haven't been on the road yet this season. But they'll be back soon.

With Ringling operating three rail shows and talk of other shows going on rails, one can't help but wonder if there is a new swing to that system of operation. It also makes one wonder if it is worthwhile since rail service is slow, there are problems with roadbeds and derailments, and many towns are no longer on a rail-road connection.

Now that all the circuses have left the Ark.-La.-Miss.-Tex. area we are blessed with good weather - cool nights and warm days, with the rivers staying in their banks. However, last month we did have a brief rain storm, which brought 2 inches in 15 minutes. I still contend that many shows open too early and in the wrong areas. They day they open that heavy "nut" starts to apply.

WANTED

Family Act doing two or more for June 30 thru July 7th. For the right people there could be additional dates.

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REPORT

DENVER SHOW DATE . . . by Billy Barton

The Dobritch International Circus, produced by Sandy Dobritch for the Denver (Colo.) PAL, appeared at the University of Denver Ice Arena, May 11-13, day and dating the Carson & Barnes Circus, whose appearances for the Lions Club overlapped the May 11 opening of the Police Circus.

A snowstorm and muddy lot forced cancellation of two out of the four days' run for Carson & Barnes and the tent moved to a parking lot at a Community College on the northern end of town where that show gave three performances daily to make up for lost shows. Visits were exchanged between both shows and neither circus hurt the other's attendance.

The program for the Dobritch Circus ran: Overture; Jorge Barrera, lions; Mister Sensation, aerial; Clowns with Mother Hubbard's Closet; Norbu, Fay's Pets; Karl Winn's incline wire walk; My-Immba's Baboons; Clowns; the Great Joselito, high wire; Sheila Winn, slide for life; Fay's horses; Clowns and Long Shirt; the Dorey Miller baby elephants worked by Lucy Loyale (first three shows) and the Paul Kaye elephants worked by Ben DeWayne (appearing in the final four shows).

Staff included: Sandy Dobritch, producer and ringmaster; Virginia Lee Fenton, organ; Chuck Gomes; drums; Vern Woerner, lights; Jimmy Douglass, producing clown; Bobby Davis, props, with equipment

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REPORT

SHRINE CIRCUS . . . by Tom Henricks

The annual Zenobia Temple Shrine Circus, was held at Toledo, Ohio, May 3-6, with 9 performances. The show was produced by Sam T. Polack, and the staff included: Musical Director, Wm. Boom Boom Brown; Announcer/ringmaster, Al Dawley; Show Manager, Ron Kelroy; Zenobia Temple Circus Chairman, Frank Saltzgeber and Zenobia Temple Parade Marshall, Art Mortemore.

(Continued on Page 15)

(ring curbs, lights, etc.) provided by Circus Creations. Clown Alley included Jimmy Douglass, Vern Woerner, Rick Legg and Rocky Rebideaux.

Subsequent engagements for the Dobritch Circus are: Wheaton, Ill. June 21-24 and Wayne, Mich, Aug. 30-Sept. 2, both for the Police. Meanwhile Dobritch is producing a circus at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va. for the summer, his second year at the park.

WASHINGTON TUBBS II

LITTLE DID MESSERS TUBBS AND GALLUP REALIZE WHAT THEY WERE GETTING INTO WHEN, SEEKING A WARM SLEEPING PLACE IN THE DARK, THEY CLIMBED IN A WAGON ON TOP OF A FLAT CAR.

OH, EDDIE!
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LION CAGE
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SHRINE CIRCUS (Continued)

The show program featured: Shrine Units Parade directed by Art Mortemore; Spec, with circus personnel, with Miss Jeanette Rix as the 1979 Zenobia Shrine Circus Queen; Francarro and The Berans, trapeze numbers; Albert and Jeanette Rix, performing bears (10); Frank & Estrelita, aerial cradle; The Szczepanski Troupe, rola bola; Clowns with Joe Sherman, producing; The Elkins Sisters, acro with dogs; The Vasquez Troupe, trapeze; Clowns; The Navarro Troupe, unicycles; the James Zoppe Riding Troupe; Intermission; Teddy and Therese, hand balancing; Miss Mafalda, sword balancing; Clowns; David and Lynn Rosaire, dogs; The Dolly Sisters, aerial number; Willy and Ann Lenz, chimps; Clowns; Tony Diano's elephants presented by Lee, Jeannette and Tanya Keener; The Great Hortobagys Troupe, teeterboard; The Flying Vasquez Troupe, trapeze; Finale with Salue to all nations by entire company.

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- 16 mm Sound Color - Greatest Show on Earth, commercial film with excerpts and out takes from the feature (400 ft.) \$ 40.00
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Under A Circus Tent by Matthews (Juv. Fict.) Nice Cover - 1907 \$ 5.00
Sucker's Progress (Gambling) \$ 15.00
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BOB PARKINSON, of the Circus World Museum, was the subject of an AP photo story last month. The picture showed Bob leaning against a circus wagon.

By Crane

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PEOPLE

VELMA E. LOWRY, of Sedan, Kans. is visiting her daughter **EGYPT BURDEN** in Southern California. Both she and Egypt recently took part in a "June's Bride Style Show".

ANTOINETTE CONCELLO was the subject of an article in the *New York Times* on May 19th. The story included a picture of Antoinette with an elephant in the background.

SEN. CLIFFORD (Tiny) KRUEGER (R.-Wisc.) former circus fat boy, testified last month that a person's weight should not be the issue in an adoption case. He appeared at a hearing concerning a Madison couple's efforts to adopt a child and were refused because the woman weighed 210 lbs.

PAT WALKER, who appears as "Muffin" the clown in Southern California, is an R.N. working for her Bachelors Degree in Nursing. She appeared in several Lux commercials.

PATRICIA MAY MOSHER and **CHARLES ANTHONY BERTINI** (circus musician) were married last month at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Auburn, NY.

TOM OGDEN, magician, will present a "Stage and Close-Up" lecture in San Jose, Calif., on June 14th.

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

ing up behind them, driving in the center lane of a three-lane interstate were the **CORTEZ TROUPE** with two units, a truck and trailer followed by a camper. The truck and trailer pulled over safely but the camper, as it washed onto the shoulder, was struck on the left rear corner by a passing semi and was splintered into an incredible explosion of wood and glass. The truck cab, containing five people, the father **EDMONDO**, the mother **AMANDA** and three children **ROBINSON**, **YESIRA** and **ALEXANDER**, somersaulted two times over an embankment. The body of the little girl was the first to be seen flying through a side window, then came the father and two boys through the windshield, and finally the mother, crawling dazed and in shock, from the cab door.

ANGELA WILNOW, who furnished me with this report, said it was the most horrifying scene she'd ever witnessed: The Cortez family sprawled on the grass like dolls, the camper littered the interstate in shattered debris, the cab lay twisted in an unrecognizable metal scrap pile.

POLICE and an ambulance were summoned over the Stinson's CB. A doctor driving by stopped to administer first aid. The victims were then rushed to a hospital where it was learned, miraculously, only the child, Alexander, had crushed his nose against the windshield before the glass disintegrated.

BY now the entire circus lined the interstate. Personnel directed traffic, swept remnants of the camper from the roadway onto a straight bed truck, and arrived hours late in Seagoville, each bringing some item that belonged to the unfortunate family.

OUT of this nightmare comes a revealing truth: when the chips are down, when Fate deals its blackest hand, circus people prove they're still "the greatest people on earth."

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DAREDEVILS TAKE NOTE

SPECIAL

CALIFORNIA REGULATIONS

As of Jan. 1, 1979, independent contractors in the State of California will be assumed to be the employees of the general contractor and as employees are eligible for compensation benefits under the California State Workers' Compensation Law. (See H. B. 3429 outline below).

According to this new law section, the burden of proving that the independent contractor is not an employee will fall on the insured. When compensation and liability policies are audited by the insurance carrier, charges will be made for the payroll of any sub-contractor unless he can provide proof that they do not qualify as employees.

The most straight-forward method of identifying an independent contractor is for the insured to obtain proof of a current contractor's license with the State for each sub-contractor and to keep a record of this for presentation to the auditor at the time of audit.

In addition, a certificate of insurance indicating that the sub-contractor carries workers' compensation and liability insurance in accordance with the terms of the sub-contracting agreement will be required.

H. B. 3429 - Workers Compensation - Independent Contractors - Presumption:

Adds a new section to Division 3 of the Labor Code (which relates generally to the employer-employee relationship) to create the rebuttable presumption that a worker performing services for which a license is required under the Contractors License Law (builders, sub-contractors, etc.) is an employee rather than an independent contractor. Independent contractor status may be established by proof of enumerated factors including among others, the right to control the manner in which the work is performed, hiring employees and holding oneself out as self employed. An individual performing services subject to the Contractor's License Law must obtain a valid contractor's license as a condition of having independent contractor status.

This law states that for purposes of the workers' compensation law, the presumption shall not "lessen the coverage of Section 3353 of the Labor Code." Section 3353 defines independent contractor for purposes of the workers' compensation law as "any person who renders service for a specified recompense for a specified result, under the control of his principal as to the result of his work only and not as to the means by which such result is accomplished." Section 3353, read together with 3356, excludes independent contractors as so defined from coverage under the workers' compensation law.

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From Europe

THREE RUSSIAN CIRCUSES . . . by Jack Niblett

In early April I visited, in company with a part of British Circus Fans, Moscow and Leningrad, with the intention of seeing their famous circuses.

First on the list was the "New" Circus in Moscow, a superb, modern building with a ring surface which rose and fell, and could be instantly utilized for water or ice productions, and also various ring surfaces to suit individual acts which slid into place. Lighting effects, and a full orchestra played their part in making a meticulous production.

The program ran as follows: Parade of Artists; Tiette & Peradze, trapeze; Anfinogenov, ground acrobat; Filippovici, dog act; Kiss "Youth" tumblers and dancers; DoVeiko, acrobatic wheel; Ababdgan, comedy "doll" contortionist trio; Guriev, juggler; Knijnikova, trapeze gymnast; "Car Service" comedy car act with the Diriabkins and a bear "mechanic"; Avramov, musical fantasy; Bessarab, bar act; Urie Avierino, magic act with large illusions. Clowns Stanislav Shukin and Valeri Serebriakov, two very funny performers, appeared in between most of the acts, with new and novel routines. It will be observed that animal acts were in very short supply.

The "Old" Circus is much loved by the Muscovites and is housed in a century-old building of much charm. The program opened with a Parade of all artists, then came Victor Stupin, a group of nine acrobats; Peter Luvi-chenko and Ludmilla Goldko, aerial gymnasts; Maia Rubsova, juggler; Natalia & Leonard Strode, magic; Leonide Kostuk, perch pole; Eugene & Angelina Ro-

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galska, 2 high school and a liberty horse; Victor Lobzev, aerial flight; Clown Alexander Rodin proved himself a master of circus skills and original comedy routines. The second half of the show consisted of a "Send-up" of a Western-style Rock and Roll Concert by all artists of this circus, a very noisy affair, some comedy and the usual over-amplified music - a disappointment to some of us who had hoped to have seen a circus in its purest form in a traditional setting.

Before leaving Moscow we were granted permission to visit the Moscow State Circus School, a fascinating, absorbing morning where we saw young hopefuls practicing their circus skills under the watchful eyes of expert tutors, learning the arts of the Ballet with tuition from a ballerina of the Bolshoi Ballet, and generally making the most of their seven years of schooling at this establishment. The students very kindly put on a full-scale circus for our benefit, a delightful performance which spoke well for the future of the Russian Circus.

The Leningrad Circus was housed in another century-old building, a place full of atmosphere and a promise of delights to come. This circus production was entitled "Spring Meeting" and it was certainly full of the liveliness of the season. The program opened with a musical parade of artists, dancers and singers; then came a swift aerial number by Stella Malet; following her came the Furkalov Group, jugglers; Elizabeth Zolotova, dog act; Svetlana Tarisevich, antopodiste; the Baidin Group, perch act; Igor Petruhiy and Nicolas Azarov, strong men; the Abakaro Group, from Dagestan Republic, high wire; Vladimar Rakchiev, flying

(Continued on Page 19)

Miscellaneous

Circus Vargas was recently featured in the TV Show "Real People."

Some 55 animals at Florida's Fort Bengali Park were recently seized by that state's Game and Fresh Water Commission because the animals had been left without food and water.

The Beatty-Cole Circus has added four new Marketing Directors to their staff, bringing that crew up to a total of 12 people. They still plan to add another four people to the advance crew.

PEOPLE

BOB OWENS (Spiff the Clown) provided the series of circus drawings which have been appearing on the address side of Circus Report.

GALLA SHAWN, trapeze performer, is still working as a feature act with an Italian circus. This is her third year of starring in that country.

BOB WILLIAMS and his trained dog are appearing in the show "Sugar Babies" which is now underway in San Francisco.

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FROM EUROPE (Continued)

trapeze (8 people); Vladimar Sviridenko, eccentric juggler; Angelina Monastirskaja, magician. Practically all of the second half was taken up by a large group of acrobats and dancers from the Uzbek Republic led by Roman Bellei. Entitled "Eastern Fantasy" this was a wildly exciting affair with galloping camels, whirlwind acrobatics and mock battles, exotic dances and even a lady riding a lumbering Bactrian camel in a Voltige act! Clown Eugene Mihrovsky (affectionately known as "Mi" had all the attributes of the traditional circus clown; skilled in circus arts, a master of comedy and of pathos,) and I would suggest a worthy successor to Popov and to Karendash.

This Leningrad Circus was easily the best, in my opinion. In all the shows, all the acts were of very high standard, but the lack of elephants, liberty horses, riding acts and cage acts was very noticeable. However it was good to see Circus presented for the most part in classical style, and to see it so well received by audiences who understood and appreciated the art of the circus.

