



5th Year

October 11, 1976

Number 41

Charges Denied

Charges that he deserted his elephants and some circus personnel at Akron (Phio) were denied last week by George-Matthews Circus owner Sid Kellner. The showman said he was in Arizona, on his way to California, when he heard the news and as a result he rushed back to Akron.

Kellner said he and trainer Pancho Magana had agreed to try and find work for the elephants until Nov. 3rd, when a new series of circus dates was scheduled to start. In fact, Kellner said he returned to Akron because Magana "wanted to steal my elephants from me."

The Akron Beacon Journal reported that Magana had been left behind without money or work and with only a vague promise of work late in the year. Kellner, the paper said, produced checks showing that Magana had been paid more than \$2,570 in salary and reimbursements between Sept. 7

(Continued on Page 14)

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Trapped

While enroute to Republic (Mo.) for its Sept. 20th date the Carson & Barnes Circus trucks and drivers were ticketed for trying to avoid a highway weighing station. In addition to being delayed for some six hours the action cost the show several hundred dollars in fines.

Local observers report that a few miles from the weigh station the circus trucks took to the back roads. However, the Missouri Highway Patrol was sitting there waiting for them. The police were reportedly scattered all over the area, waiting and watching. Despite this ten of the trucks got through without being stopped.

Circus officials reported that all their trucks are under the minimum state weight limit, but when possible they like to avoid weigh stations because of the long delay and the hassle they receive from state people. They cited an example in Texas, when early this spring the state police stopped the show and searched the trucks, yet refused to let any trucks move on, even after they had been searched.

Because of the delays the circus didn't get its big top into the air until about 4:30 p.m. and the first show was getting underway at 6 p.m.

In Washington, DC., it is against the law to allow your children to become acrobats, circus riders or tightrope walkers. The penalty is a fine of \$250 and two years in jail.

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S&G Visit

The Sells & Gray Circus came into Batavia (Ohio) for two shows on Sept. 24th and had some competition from the local football team. The cool 55 degree weather had folks sitting on their hands for the most part, but when they did applaud you knew they enjoyed the performers.

Ticket prices were \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for the children. The show was delayed about 15 minutes in an effort to get folks into the side show. An extra 50 cents was charged for all side seats and most of the items on sale were priced at 50 cents.

The performance itself was great and the kids especially loved the dogs. The single trapeze act, trampoline, riding number, the perch routine, and teeterboard acts brought good reactions from the crowd.

However, the audience reacted best when all three rings were going at the same time. The best and most deserving applause went to the elephant number, a very act.

The only real comedy was during the Bonnie and Clyde number and it seemed the clown and audience weren't communicating.

... Don Sandman

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W&R Notes

A generally good year has been reported by the Wallace & Rogers Circus which will soon wind up its 1976 tour in Southern California. "There were weeks when we didn't think things were going very well", says John Hartzell, "but when you compare what we had to problems other shows faced we've had a very good year."

The show played throughout the Western states, Canada and Alaska, in a combination of repeat and new dates. Only one day was lost and that was because of a storm. On one occasion a night show was cancelled when strong winds swept across the Canadian plains, forcing the quick tear-down of the show.

A record was achieved in Alaska when after two shows the circus made a ferry jump to the next spot, gave two performances, and

then was back on the ferry heading for the next location. This was followed by a drive across a mountain range. All shows were presented on time and good crowds filled the tent for each performance.

The Hartzell Family is confident that 1977 will be a good year for them and they are planning several changes during the winter months. Some new acts will be added, a new seat wagon will be built and a new tent has been ordered.

When asked about the show's 1977 tour plans, John Hartzell told CR, "We'll be in Alaska early next year and if anyone wants to beat us up there they'll have to wear snowshoes."

The show's program features: double trapeze; trained macaws; seals; clown; Spanish web; magic/illusions; sword balance; trained dog; sponge dive; clown; Tika, the elephant; trapeze acts; aerial motorcycle.

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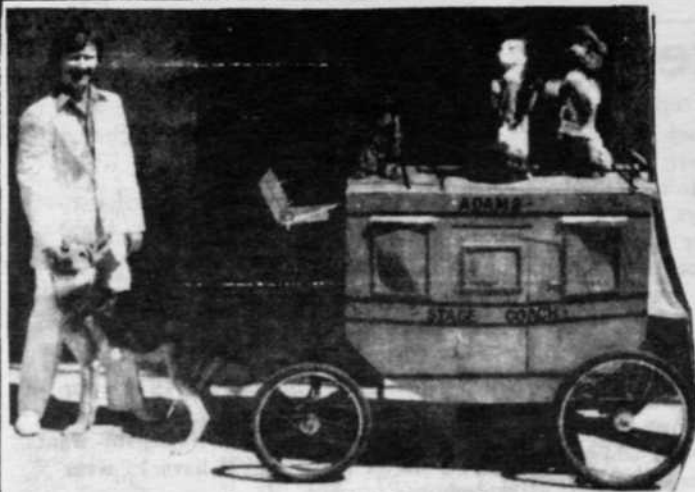
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BILLY BARTON.....

IT'S "FULL STEAM" AHEAD for RUDY BROS. re-entry into the Circus Limelight in '77. The show will play under canvas, opening in California and then making a coast-to-coast tour.

MARY RUTH HERRIOTT confirmed what I had already suspected. "Oliver" the much publicized man-monkey creature, belongs to JANET and FRANK BURGER! Mary Ruth "met" Oliver and says it was an "uncanny introduction."

DOWN RUMOR ROAD: That WALLY BICKMORE and GLEN McCASKEY are reputed to be readying a small Magic Circus for schools....That delectable ANETA VARGAS will add her glamor to Castle in 77....That PAUL KAYE will produce a circus in Puerto Rico....That a famous horse trainer will return in '77 to RBBB in an "executive capacity"....That Royal Hanneford will stay out all winter....and that Circus Vargas has purchased two gorillas and two orangutans.

FLASH!! STEVIE (Scott) and SERGE CORONAS are expecting an heir....A weekend circus, beginning in February and continuing for 15 weeks in the New York City area will be unveiled using a one-ring format.

FLYING SEGARAS did not make the Akron/Cleveland dates for G-M due to the loss of their male leaper. STEELE-GAONA Flyers replaced them....ERIC JAEGER is now the rigger for the QUASSARS opening this month with CIRCO UNION in Mexico....Circus Vargas has decided against their Mexican tour in December because of the "Peso devaluation". They will have 3 weeks off and reopen in January at Atlanta. What an opening it will be, too! Rumors about great expansions are ALL TRUE which I'll detail in later columns and articles.

Drunks see Pink Elephants, but what do drunken elephants see? Ask JACKIE, a G-M bull stricken with "flu" who was given a fifth of booze plus 22 cc's of antibiotic. ALFONSO MAGANA called IVAN HENRY to ascertain the proper dosage which is on CC per hundred pounds.

Saddened to learn that FRANCINE DE RISKIE (Pealer) died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Her sisters are Lucy, married to BOB SNOWDEN, and Gayle, married to HAROLD BARNES. Brother Frank is canvas boss on Circus Vargas.

ANITA KEPPO and TOM DESIMINI are no longer with Royal Hanneford....JAN BICKMORE filed and got back her 1975 tax dollars paid out in Canada.. ..WALLY NAGHTIN's wife DORIS is now in England visiting her parents....LUCY and LACEY TOTH finally realized a lifelong dream by acquiring a Sarasota home (right behind JOE and ELIZABETH BAUER). Question - the couple are touring with Circus Vargas, so when will they have time to enjoy it?

ANNA DEL MONTE is back in the business, stitching new spec wardrobe for Circus Vargas. Her son, Pinky, is doing contortion in the CV side show....VILMA LORENZO made the web and ladder costumes for Sells & Gray....MARTA FLORES has been voted that show's most glamorous "clotheshorse", unveiling new costumes at least twice a month....FRED and LONI VAN VOORDEN had the side of their Airstream scraped at a truck stop. "What makes it worse," says Loni, "is the food was terrible!"....The GROTEFENT's pet spaniel makes the Sells & Gray pay line each Thursday - stands up on its hind legs and is thrown liver snaps by paymaster Renee.

TEXAS TIDBITS: Freddie and Beckie Schmidt are proud new parents....The Aerial Ballet has a Chinese theme. Wanda Ward is its center-piece.

CLIFFORD VARGAS told me his show's appearance in Spanish Harlem was an absolute "nightmare". Show played a total of 3 days out of 6. To keep their teardown a secret, all dismantling of seats and rigging was done at 1 ayem with loud, rock music blaring. The next morning Cliff was interviewed on the NBC TODAY show and then the tent, itself, was torn down. Says Cliff: "It was the fastest teardown on record!" The circus genius, incidentally, has been profiled by the New Yorker magazine.

CHUCKLES: LISA STEWART, dubious about doing the double trap act with Teddy when he in-

(Continued on Page 12)

L.A. Report

The spectacular Chinese Acrobats played the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles (Sept. 21-26) and offered a great show. The cast is just about the same as last year and except for the balancing acts the show runs pretty much the same. The girl who does the stack of tea cups did not work on the night this reporter caught the show.

1 - Chinese Carnival - Most of the cast appears doing juggling, acrobats, twirling, festive features with the dragon dance as its finish.

2 - Green Ladder - features a break-away bamboo perch pole.

3 - Ribbon Dancers - Several girls twirl long colorful ribbons for interesting and unusual patterns.

4 - Balancing - Two girls go up and down a 12 foot ladder, foot-to-head and head-to-head.

5 - Juggling - Heavy jars are juggled, handling them on the chest, head and back.

6 - Flying Chinese Doll - Man has long perch pole and girl hangs from the top by her teeth as he swirls it around very fast.

7 - Rings and Rods - Juggling of several plastic rings, back and forth, between several people, making different patterns.

8 - See-Saw Act - Teeterboard with three people, hand-to-hand, hand-to-head, etc.

9 - Chinese Chi-kung - Several physical feats using steel rods, nails in a board with the hand, picking up huge jars with the palm of the hand, etc.

10 - Pagoda Chairs - Stacking of several chairs, with the bottom chair resting on 4 beer bottles, man then does handstand on the very top.

11 - Dancing Plates - About 25 people all of whom do plate spinning.

PEOPLE

REX and WANDA ROSSI recently lost two horses when the pin on their trailer came out and the horse trailer was totalled. They also lost most of their costumes.

The SENSATIONAL LEIGHS will present their Space Wheel act as part of the "Men, Animals, Sensations" show in Berlin on Dec. 10-31.

ADAM MONESTRUCK "Monkey Man" on RBBB's Blue Unit, uses a costume that is made entirely of human hair.

GARY RAMSEY, circus promotion man, who is currently with the Air Force, made a fast trip into San Francisco last week.

12 - Juggling - Sticks and balls juggled. Also juggling of ping pong balls with the mouth and stack of wood bricks, plus several gravity tricks.

13 - Fancy Feet - Juggling people with the feet (risley type).

14 - Circle of Knives - Precision tumbling through a ring of knives and fire.

15 - Feather Dance - A change of pace with seven graceful dancers.

16 - Chinese Somersault - Three sisters stand three high, then dive for the floor and come to a point where all are laying on the floor. Then they reverse the action and soon they are three high again (Fantastic).

17 - Bicycle Jamboree - Unicycle and bicycle routines, ending with 11 people on one bicycle.

18 - Chinese Kung-Fu - A fast action demonstration of this art.

19 - Human Pyramids - Finale with about 30 acrobats in several variations. Then all performers walk on waving flags.

.....Jim Swafford

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ROUTES**Beatty-Cole Circus**

Oct. 11 Pascagoula, Miss
12 Gulfport
13 Laurel
14 Slidell, La.
15-17 New Orleans

Circus Vargas

Oct 13-15 Dallas, Texas

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Oct 11-13 Atlanta, Ga.
14 Dublin
15-16 Warner Robbins

Hoxie's Great American Cir

Oct. 11 Brookneal, Va.
-- End of Season --

Wm. Kay Circus

Oct 13-15 Orlando, Fla.

Kaye Cont'l Circus

to Oct 16 Cleveland, Ohio

King Bros. Circus

Oct. 11 Vinita, Okla.
12 Henryetta
13 Poteau
14 Clarksville, Ark
15 Morrilton
16 Conway
17 Jacksonville

Polack Bros. Circus

Oct 15-17 Charleston, W.Va

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

to Nov. 7 Chicago, Ill.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

to Oct 17 Largo, Md.

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ROUTES

Sells & Gray Circus

Oct. 11 Douglasville, Ga.

12 Lawrenceville

13 Conyers

14 McDonough

15 Manchester

16 Ocilla

17 Dawson

Shrine Circus

to Oct 17 Houston, Texas

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

Oct 14-18 Urbana, Ill.

John Strong Circus

Oct 11 Mariana, Calif.

12 Hughson

13 Madera

14 Kingsburg

15 Visalia

16-17 Bakersfield

..... OTHER ROUTES

Carnival of Brazil

Oct 12-17 Wilmington, Dela

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit

Oct 11-16 Gulfport, Miss

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit

Oct 11-16 Meridian, Miss

Blue Unit

The Nile Temple Shrine, of Seattle, Wash., again sponsored six of the ten performances presented by RBBB's Blue Unit during its recent engagement at the Seattle Center Coliseum. For the Shrine it was their 35th annual circus and the 8th year with RBBB. The Seattle PI newspaper sold \$2.00 discount tickets for opening night, and ad space was up, as was attendance.

The show rolls on 37 cars - 7 flats 120-126; 2 tunnel cars 127-128; 1 double decker 129; 5 stock cars 130-133 and 136; 1 baggage car 137, 19 coaches 138-156; 1 private car 157 "Hickory" added this year.

While in the east the show had 43 cars, as 6 coaches were being replaced. Later the 6 cars were sent back to Florida. When the Red Unit car 500 was destroyed, car 144 was sent from Venice as a replacement, it joined the show at Louisville.

Since last year the cars have been renumbered. The stock cars are also new. One stock car from last year has been converted into a concession supply car for the red unit No. 60. One tunnel car not used in several years is back again, carrying the polar bears and its props. There are also several new wagons for the new spec wagons.

... Mike Sporrer

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PEOPLE

STEVE TYNER, elephant man on RBBB's Unit, was kicked and suffered a crushed left foot when he hurried jumped in an elephant car as the show train started to move at the Denver yards.

TOM UPTON is making his annual two week visit to the big Fair at Fresno (Calif.) where the Happytime Circus is showing.

JACK RYAN, former National Press Representative for RBBB, is currently Public Relations Director at Magic Mountain in Southern California.

"Doc" MILLER is "billing it like a circus" for the Deggler Shows these days. His new van already has 60,000 miles on it.

MIKE MARTIN, former side show manager on Sells & Gray visited that show at Wilmington (Ohio) on Sept. 23rd.

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Nebr. Date

Holiday Hippodrome which showed at the City Auditorium, Sept. 23rd, under sponsorship of the Beatrice Seratoma Club proved to be the finest Circus-type indoor production this reporter has ever seen. The show is fast moving, well costumed and presented with good showmanship and every act was a good one.

It lacks only clowns and elephants to qualify it as a genuine indoor circus. Manager Floyd Bradbury told me that they had been enjoying consistently good business with repeat engagements the rule, and after seeing the performance it is easy to understand why this show is a winner.

The 90 minute performance ran as follows: Miss Chona, tightwire; Floyd Bradbury, magic and illusions; The Albertis, rolling globes; Wally Westwood and Son, unicycling and juggling; Floyd Bradbury, balloon sculpturing;

After intermission came: Angela Wilnow and her trained collies; Giovoni's Plate Spinning; Floyd Bradbury, ventriloquist; and The Eastwoods. gorilla parody.

Bill Green

Presstime News

Last month Theodore and Lillian Wells and their daughter Candy, plus Freda Timmsen (a former circus performer); the Stones (advance crew for Dailey Bros.) and Everett Eslinger gathered at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Miller for dinner and an opportunity to see Everett's old-time circus movies.

On Sept. 23rd, Jack and his wife, along with Mrs. Borghild Ford (a former circus performer) visited Carson & Barnes Circus at Mt. Vernon (Mo.) They visited with Shorty Shearer, Mrs. Ila Miller and other show personnel.

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Mattel Says

The following has been taken from Mattel's report to its stockholders, dated July 31st.)

".....The Company modified substantially the concept of the Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus World, Inc., theme park (Circus Park) and invested additional capital of approximately \$3,200,000 in the Circus Park. As of July 31, 1976, the Company's investments were approximately \$11,600,000 in Circus Park assets and \$7,400,000 in the adjacent land held for sale or future use. For the six months ended July 31, 1976, Circus Park operated at a substantial loss because of higher than anticipated reopening costs and operating expenses.

"On the basis of year to date operating results, internal analysis and the preliminary findings of theme park consultants engaged by management, it appears that additional capital investment in Circus Park may be necessary during the next several years. Management is currently reviewing available data to determine the level and timing of such additional investment, if any.

"There is no assurance that the Company will realize its investments in Circus Park assets and the adjacent land or that, after additional capital investment, if any, the Circus Park will operate successfully. If it

Club Leader

John Paul Roberts, Sr., of Parkville, Md., has been elected president of the Carnival Historical and Model Building Society for the coming year.

Serving with him will be: Ron Weir, Tama, Iowa, vice president; Elbert Hananer, Hollis, NY, secretary; Chet Vradenburg, Ft. Madison, Iowa, treasurer and Warren Renaud, Ludlow, Mass., supt. of construction.

Chet Vradenburg has been named editor of the club's magazine and Allen Zagel is the organization's publicity director.

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

jured his back said: "I don't want to be hanging up there and have your back go out." "Why not?" Teddy shot back, "Every show YOUR head goes out!"

See you down the road luv.

is determined that continuation of the Circus Park is not in the best interests of the Company, there would be a further materially adverse effect on the Company's financial position and results of operations."

COL. E. T. BALE

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Sabotage

What has been described as a clear-cut case of sabotage was discovered shortly before a performance of the RBBB Blue Unit at Denver.

A workman checking the electrical cables used for Charly Baumann's mirrored pedestal trick, found that one 110 volt line had been tampered with. The line is used to return the pedestals to the outer rim of the arena when the trick is over. The cable runs through an eye-bolt and is tied there so it cannot pull loose from the motor inside.

It was discovered that the cable was not in the eye-bolt, but had been removed and then tied in such a way that any pressure would release it, thus it could pull away from the internal electrical system, leaving a live wire loose inside the arena.

An inspection revealed the cable had been removed from the bolt and the bolt was re-locked. An accidental forcing of the bolt would have left it sprung with a gap, but this was not the case.

PEOPLE

BOB MOMYER, who worked for Hunt Bros. early this year, has been named Assistant to BILL BALLENTINE at the Ringling College for Clowns. He will teach magic and clownmake-up.



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CHARGES DENIED (Continued)

and 13th, when the circus closed. Meanwhile Magana said the money had been used to pay personal debts.

In the meantime the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture got into the action and ordered the elephant truck repaired before the animals could be moved. Repair costs were estimated at \$300 or more. Then the farmer, on whose property the animals were kept, reported that his barn had been damaged and he has asked for \$1,200 in damages before the animals will be released.

Kellner reports the large scale publicity and other problems have caused him to lose a circus date at Cleveland. He estimates his losses as a result at \$38,000.

YEARS AGO

Tom Atkinson's Circus played California during the 1926 season and then was sold to the Gutterz Bros. Mexican Circus. The circus moved on 25 trucks and had a 100 ft. round end big top with two 40 ft. center sections.

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Good Tour

The Prof. Miller & Co., magic show has just completed a good run in Canada, showing in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. All engagements in Newfoundland were sponsored by the Lions Club, with the show playing in government-owned Arts and Cultural halls.

Three full houses were recorded at St. Johns, the largest single day of business ever handled by the theatre. Four shows were required to accommodate the crowds at Corner Brook

Miller's show moves on two house trailers and a truck and carries eight people. Featured are the girl-to-leopard illusion, a unicycle act, Wilson's chimps and the show organist.

ROUTES

James H. Drew Shows

Oct 11-16 Cordele, Ga.

Ken Griffin (Magic)

Oct 16 Augusta, Ga.

Mitchell's Marionettes

Oct 15-23 Columbia, S.C.

Royal Lipizzan Stallions

Oct 11-12 Fitchburg, Mass

15-17 Richfield, Ohio

The Ringling-Barnum Circus train went through Pittsfield, Mass. the morning of June 6, 1926 going from Syracuse, N.Y. to the show's date at Boston.

NOTICE . . . Anyone having any knowledge of the whereabouts of Johnny and and Phyllis Gibson (cradle and sway pole)

WES CONNELL

Ringling-Barnum Circus Blue Unit - per route

R-B Program

The program presented by RBBB's Blue Unit during its Seattle engagement featured: Clown pre-show warm-up; Opening Spec; Ursula Bottcher, polar bears; The Laszlos, single trapeze; Grantsharevi, cradle; bareback riding by the Slavovi, Romanovi and Paniotovi troupes; a clown walk-around; King Charles Troupe, on unicycles; Michu, world's smallest man; Teeterboard acts by the Oblocki, Kehaiovi and Wozniak troupes; Axel Gautier, mixed animals; Jeanette Williams, horses; The Berans, single trapeze; Elvin Bale, single trapeze; Charivari tumblers; The clown tumblers; Monastyruk, gorilla parody; 200 Years of Circus Spec; Intermission.

Tomi and Michu, ladder balancing; The Angelos, foot juggling; Lillian, trapeze; Duo Nunus, teeterboard head stand; The Axt, sword balance; Cossack riding by the Dimitrovi, Ivanovi and Donevi troupes; the Clown car; Elvin Bale, space wheel; perch acts by

Added Notes

HAL HAVILAND has left King Bros. Circus and rejoined Strates Carnival for a fall fair route:

Nashville, Tenn. - Sept. 17-25
Winston-Salem, N.C. - Oct. 1-9
Raleigh, N.C. - Oct. 15-24

The Strates Shows is one of the last of the railroad shows in America. Which rates it as a 65 dog show.

TV Special

Check your local TV Guide for Friday, Oct. 9th and don't miss the special on The Great Houdini and his magic.

the Xemus, Knopp and Polonia troupes; Axel Gautier, elephants; The Flying Gaonas and The Flying Farias; Grand Finale.

.....Mike Sporrer

help wanted

Need Managers, Drivers, Hostesses and Santa Claus for four units, Santa Claus Rocket Ships in the East and Mid-west.

Average six weeks work - Opening early November.

I have purchased Lloyd Laster's operation, established 18 years. Good pay, no lush.

BILL GRIFFITH

Santa Claus Rocket Corporation

1130 Blue Mound St. - Black Earth, Wisc. 53515

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