



8th Year

March 12, 1979

Number 11

CIRCUS SUES CITY

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus has filed a \$1 million damage suit against the City of Hartford (Conn.) and 22 other corporations and individuals. It is the third legal action against the city following the collapse of its civic center roof last year. The circus charges the city broke its contract by failing to provide facilities for performances in 1978 and 1979, although the circus was ready to fulfill its obligations.

Senior Assistant Corporation Counsel Richard Settle said the city "will regard the suit as just another claim and will forward it to our insurance carrier," The Travelers Insurance Cos., which will represent Hartford in the case.

According to Settle, the city's contract with Ringling Bros. included a clause which absolves Hartford of liability if the coliseum and related facilities are rendered unavailable "due to acts beyond our control and there's nothing we can do about it."

The circus charges that the building's roof collapse was caused by the "negligence and carelessness" of Hartford through its "agents, servants, employes and departments."

The circus charges the city failed to adequately review the coliseum's roof design, to seek an independent review of the space frame design before a building permit was issued, to make adequate periodic inspections during and

after construction and to properly inspect and maintain the roof after construction.

Although the city became aware - both during and after construction - of "rampant speculation concerning the roof's instability," it engaged in a "publicity campaign calculated to minimize the collapse danger" instead of conducting proper inspections, the circus claims.

(Continued on Page 17)

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SPECIAL

(Exclusive to Circus Report)

Stan Kramien, master magician, reports he will tour his "Magicazam" show under canvas starting in early 1980. The show will tour on a continual basis, playing one, two and three day stands.

The magic show will be presented under a big top that is an 80 with three 30 ft. middles. Seating will consist of individual chairs and will offer General Admission, Reserved and Box Seat sections.

A 50 ft. stage with a runway will be set-up in one end of the top, with dressing rooms and storage space behind the stage. The set-up will permit the use of many big illusions and will assure audiences everywhere of the complete and full big show.

About 10 to 12 people will be employed to move the show and work on stage. In addition to Kramien and Kathleen, those already signed to work in the show are Ray Grant, Roy Davenport and Clay Crowell.

Rolling equipment, which has already been purchased, includes four diesel tractors with 40 ft. semi bodies, two straightbed trucks, a 35 ft. office/ticket unit, concession trailer and a generator truck.

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Miscellaneous

An AP news release from Houston, Texas, says Pat. O'Brien, who is known as "Mr. Dynamite" has been given a one year unsupervised probation by a local judge. The court stated that O'Brien can blow himself up as much as he wants, provided he stores his dynamite in a safe place.

O'Brien was arrested when police found 56 sticks of dynamite under his house trailer. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of unlawfully storing an explosive material.

The dynamite, he said, is placed around a coffin and then exploded, with him inside.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$15.00 per year. Overseas rate via Surface Mail is \$20.00 a year.

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Sir Victor Julian



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SHOW DATES

Aut Mori Grotto Circus
Mar. 13-18 Youngstown, Ohio

Beatty-Cole Circus
Mar. 12-13 Gainesville, Fla.

Carson & Barnes Circus
Mar. 16 Hugo, Okla.
17 Wylie, Texas
18 Whitesboro

Hubert Castle Circus
Mar. 15-18 Spokane, Wash.

Circus Vargas
Mar. 14-18 Oxnard, Calif.

Cole All Star TV Circus
Mar. 12 Newfane, N.Y.
13 Medina
14 York
15 Bergen
16 Cohocton
17 Dansville

L. N. Fleckles Circus
Mar. 16-Apr. 1 Detroit, Mich

Garden Bros. Circus
Mar. 15-18 Montreal, Quebec

Happytime Circus
Mar. 2-11 Imperial, Calif.

Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus
Mar. 11 Stevens Point, Wisc.

Lin-Rich Animal Circus
Mar 16-25 Jacksonville, Fla

M & M Circus
Mar. 17-22 Omaha, Nebr.

Monte Carlo Circus
Mar 13-14 Waterloo, Iowa
16-18 Columbia, Mo.

Moscow Circus
Mar 14-18 San Antonio, Tex.

Sam T. Polack Circus
Mar 16-17 Pine Bluff, Ark.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Mar 13-18 Charlotte, N.C.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
Mar 13-26 Baltimore, Md.

Royal Hanneford Circus
to Mar 25 Chicago, Ill.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Mar 13 Huron, S.D.
14 Yankton
15 Vermillion
16 Sioux City, Iowa
17 Brookings, S.D.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Blackstone Magic Show
Mar 12 Los Angeles, Calif
13-18 La Mirada

Ethel's Greyhounds
Mar 16-Apr 1 Detroit, Mich.

Flintstones On Parade
to Mar 18 Sydney, Aust.

Holiday On Ice - Int'l Unit
Mar 14-18 El Paso, Texas

Holiday On Ice - Nat'l Unit
Mar 14-18 Atlanta, Ga.

Ice Capades - Cont. Unit
Mar 14-18 Roanoke, Va.

Ice Capades - Eastern Unit
Mar 13-19 Detroit, Mich.

Ice Capades - Western Unit
Mar 13-18 Kitchener, Ont.

Ice Follies
Mar 13-18 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Jo Ann & Sunny - seal act
Mar 16-Apr 1 Detroit, Mich

Lipko's Comedy Chimps
Mar 14-19 Rio Grande, Tex

Los Latinos - wire act
to Mar 25 Chicago, Ill.

John MacKay - clown
Mar 16-17 Pine Bluff, Ark

Nerveless Nocks
Mar 16-17 Pine Bluff, Ark

Ed Russell - ringmaster
Mar 15-18 Spokane, Wash.

Mr. Sensation - aerialist
Mar 15-18 Montreal, Quebec



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CIRQUE GATINI opens in May with its two units, one playing Quebec, the other playing the Maritimes. Signed for the units are: KAY ROSAIRE (with a lion act on each unit), the ROBERTSONS, DAVIDE ZOPPE FAMILY, POCO & POCO, DANTE (finger stand), JOHNNIE LADDIE & CO., DRESLER BROS. (revolving ladder), SUSAN SHERYLL's AFGHANS, GEE GEE ENGESSER (ponies/elephants), ARTUROS (hi-wire), SHAPPI's Comedy Piano, Mr. FREDDY (trap-eze), VENO VENITO, The DUKES (Double traps), ERNA's CHIMPS, JOHN DAILY (bike), JAY TROY (trampoline), JOANNE WILSON (dogs/dressage), BISBINI's COMEDY MULE, WANDA WARD (one-arm swings), The BERTINIS (aerial perch), JORGE ROSSELL's comedy car and PINSON's elephants.

SAM T. POLACK's Louisville date was successful with good business and a strong program. Among the features were ALBERT & JEANNETTE RIX (bears), The DOLLY SISTERS, JACK and SANDRA FULBRIGHT, FRANK & ESTRELITA, The FLYING VASQUEZ, The NAVARROS and the TONY DIANO ELEPHANTS. Sam has signed the date back for next season. Recently son SAMMY had a business meeting in Honolulu so Sam and Gen baby sat their grandchildren during the time Sammy was away.

TRAGEDY: ERIC BLUM lost his dogs during a skiing trip when Number One Diesel Fuel was accidentally used for the heater in his camper instead of kerosene. He returned to the camper to discover the dogs had been suffocated by the fumes. The act had been featured at Circus Circus in Las Vegas.

ACTS PLAYING the M&M Rochester date in mid-February arrived and departed in snow storms. The weather was the coldest in that city's history with temps plummeting to way below zero at night and rising only a few degrees above freezing during the day. Business, however, was good, and the program excellent, featuring acts never before seen in Rochester including The Sensational Leighs, Joselito, Jorge

Barreda, Aerialetta, the Young Troupe, Mr. Sensation, Gee Gee's Elephants, Ethel's Greyhounds, the James Zoppe Riders, Flying Lanes, Jack Cook, Jo Ann and Sunny, and many others. The DUBSKY TROUPE, also on the bill (first time in 6 yrs), told me they have a good season booked with their mall and fair units.

Most Shrine dates have a Hospitality Room for Shriners or visiting committees. On the M&M dates GRACE MCINTOSH has a Hospitality Room for Performers Only with free coffee, tea, and doughnuts, where everyone congregates during the show to cut-up jackpots. By the way, those stories being circulated that CHUCK MARINE is seriously ill should be recycled: they're erroneous.

CLOSEUPS: HAL HAVILAND mailed a special calendar used by a leather goods company in Denver which advertises their phone number as (303) MAE-WEST and which I forwarded on to the star. Hal reveals he has an active season booked with his animal acts. . .

The JAMES ZOPPE RIDERS played dates for Garden Bros. in Feb. and March. . . Organist VIRGINIA LEE FENTON has a busy schedule of upcoming dates in June, July and Sept. for Bentley Bros., the Denver date for SANDY DOBRITCH, and dates for EMMETT KELLY, Jr., including the San Francisco Fair (June 29 thru July 4) and the Louisville Fair (Aug. 9-18). . . This is the third year for the LEONARD GREEN production to play that fair (under a big top). . . Did you know that MARC SHULTZ is an avid weight lifter? Enters contests in the Chicago area (and wins 'em, too). . . JIMMY DOUGLASS and VERN WOERNER of CIRCUS CREATIONS have been active making all the clown props for the Beatty show, in addition to wardrobe for the alley; plus illusions and special bally effects for the side show. They also created new illusions and wardrobe for the BREWSTER and BERWIN illusion novelty, the animal skins for PATTI GATTI's new spec "Talk To The Ani-

(Continued on Page 16)



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Charges Filed

A phone promoter, John Russell Penn, who authorities say is also known as Alex Jordan, was arrested in Tulsa and returned to Miami, Okla., to face charges of fraud and embezzlement.

Penn is accused of leaving Miami with \$15,000 raised for a muscular dystrophy concert and writing a string of "hot checks." Miami police also believe he left the city the day after the concert in a car leased at the airport. The car was found abandoned in Tulsa.

Among those who Penn allegedly bilked is singer Ray Price. Penn is believed to have paid Price \$1,000 in cash and then written a bad check for the remainder of the \$3,000 he owed Price.

Business firms in Miami reporting losses include the Thunderbird Motel, Pioneer Printing and the local McDonald's company.

Charges filed against Penn in a Tulsa District Court include embezzlement by a bailee, obtaining merchandise by bogus check, carrying a firearm after a felony conviction, uttering a forged instrument and obtaining cash by bogus check.

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BANDWAGONS: Aug. '57; May-June, July-Aug. Nov.-Dec. '58; July-Aug., Nov.-Dec. '60; Dec. '61; March-April '63

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Miscellaneous

Although the culinary union workers are on strike, special "permit workers" are manning the concession stands at the Coliseum in Oakland, Calif. The walk-out came after the union rejected an offer of a 5% increase in the current basic rate of \$5.58 an hour.

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PEOPLE

SALLY RAND will celebrate her 75th birthday on April 3rd. When she was 17 years old she worked on the Ringling-Barnum Circus.

BEROSINI's Orangutan was seen on the **MERV GRIFFIN TV Show** on Feb. 22nd.

REV. AUSTIN MILES, the show business chaplain, will be ringmaster for the **Aut Mori Grotto Circus** on March 13-18.

DOROTHY HAMILL, ice skating star, has been appointed a member of the President's Physical Fitness Council.

STU MILLER writes that the **SYZMANSKI's** Chimp Act will not be with **Magic Time USA** as previously reported. The **ERV LANG** Chimps will be with the show this season. They were booked direct.

JOHN McPEAK, juggler, was featured on a re-run of a "Gong Show" segment on TV, seen on the west coast on Feb. 21st.

DON "Whizzer" BRIDWELL is working on a new manual for clowns. He wrote "Just For Laughs" in 1966 for the **Abbott Magic Co.** The new book will be completely different and updated and will be pub-

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lished and sold directly from the author, in the fall of 1979.

PAM LYONS and **JIM LEE**, promoters for the Royter Productions, are planning to be married. Pam is a niece of **PHIL MORRIS** and Tom is a clown who has been working for the Southeastern School Assemblies.

THE FARRELL BROS. high wire act, will be with the **Billy Smart Circus** in England this summer and while there will be featured in a circus special for TV.



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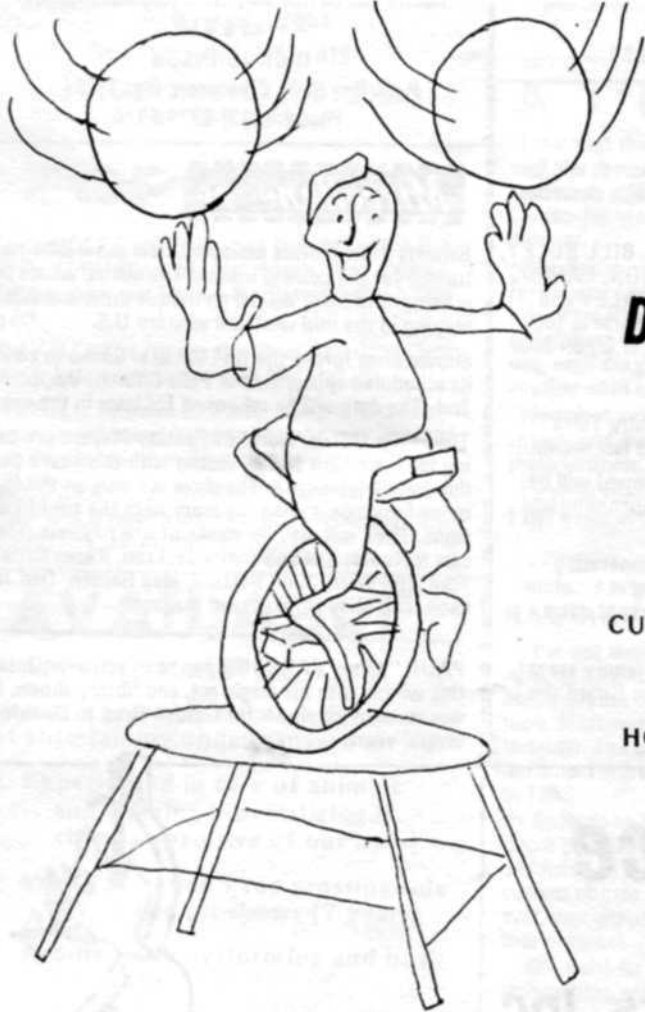
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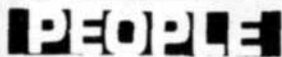
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ATTILLA MOLNAR, juggler from Montreal, will be touring with the Royter Productions magic show during the coming months.

FANTASIO, JOSE De La TORRE, Col. BILL BOLEY, WALT HUDSON, TOM OGDEN, CHIRON, CARLOS & VIVIAN, PHILIP MORRIS, RON CONLEY and TEX DANIELS have been signed to perform at the Annual Magic Convention in Charlotte, N.C., on June 1-3. The event is sponsored by Ring 144.

CAROL CHENEY and the elephant "Baby Tarra" filmed a Toyota commercial for TV late last month.

DEAN CHAMBERS (Elmo Gibb the Clown) will be joining the Beatty-Cole Circus for the upcoming season.

DON "Whizzer" BRIDWELL is still recuperating from his recent leg injury. He is working at a Columbus, Ohio, hospital and will work a few spot dates during the coming year.

JIM (Skippy) NEVINS, clown, and his family are set to tour with the CARL CONLEY Circus Girard this year.

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Miscellaneous

Reports from Florida indicate a new show is being framed for the coming season. The circus, whose title is being with-held, will be an indoor show and will be playing in the mid-west and western U.S.

Snowstorms forced the Int'l All Star Circus to cancel its scheduled appearance at Falls Church, Va., on Mar. 2nd. The date will be rebooked for later in the year.

The Philip Morris 'World of Fantasy Players' are touring for their 12th annual season with this year's production of Cinderella. The show is based on the famous fairy tale, telling the story with the aid of illusions. They will play 39 weeks of one nighters. The cast includes: Lee and Cathy Jackson, Karen Satterfield, Jim Ward, Judy Bustard, Meg Hansen, Dan Jackson, and Mike Straka, road manager.

PAUL "Abra" PARSONS, has been active in Ontario this winter with his magic act, and library shows. He was an advance clown for Garden Bros. in Canada for several years.

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PEOPLE

PAUL FIDDLER, magician, was featured at the Oakland, Calif., RV Show late last month. Also appearing on the show was Murillo & Ulises, novelty balancing act.

HENRY MARTIN reports the Great American Circus has set a June 16th date to play Mill Hall, Pa.

BOB STULL, operator of a magic shop in San Francisco many years ago, is reported to be very ill at the age of 80. He resides in Southern California.

FRED RICKARD, an old-time magician in the Los Angeles area is recovering from the effects of a stroke which hit him last month.

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A Tribute

I feel that the circus has lost another real gentleman with the recent passing of Sir Victor Julian. I really got to know Sir Victor in 1976 when he was with the Carden-Johnson Circus where I was organist/musical director.

Our discussions started over his selection of music for his act. Every piece fit the scene admirably, and they were all very melodious. Sir Victor told me how painstaking he was to select the right piece for each dog; each costume. Often he would try one tune, then another until he found just the right one.

We found a common background in our English parentage, and this led to many discussions in and out of show business.

I always found Sir Victor Julian a true Gentleman. I felt a loss in his sudden passing from the scene.

..... Col. Harry J. Jenkins, Organist

HAL HAVILAND Sez:

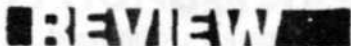
I'm not alone, I suppose, but I've always wondered what happened to those photos the big agents and producers are constantly demanding from the performers. Most certainly they are a necessity for any entertainer. I've been a lot of places in-between, but the last time I worked a big show in Hartford, Conn., was in 1959.

Enroute to NYC, I stopped off to see their annual circus and bought a program. It was a nice program and listed all the acts. And, there was a paucity of current photos for this year's roster of talent. However, you guessed it! My 1959 picture was featured in that program.

Oh, well! At least I was sitting in the audience and jack-potting with old friends.

NOTICE. . . . The Florida Fresh Water Fish & Game Commission will hold a hearing on March 13th, at which they plan to establish cage sizes for cats. The current thinking is to require a minimum size of 10 ft x 40 ft. per cat for transport cages. Their recommendations will be passed on to the State Assembly for a vote, which could make it a state law.

To voice your opinion contact: Director of Law Enforcement, Fresh Water Fish & Game Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.



M & M CIRCUS . . . by Bill Galloway

The M & M Circus Internationale made its traditional opening date for the Damascus Shrine Temple in Rochester, N.Y., Feb. 14-18. Despite extremely cold weather, all performances were well attended.

An opening spec, produced by 'Circus Creations' (James Douglass) featured disco dancers and special lighting effects. The M & M Circus will return in 1980 to produce the Shriner's 56th annual circus.

The show program included: Disco Spec "Holiday Hullabulu"; Jorge Barreda, lions; Mr. Sensation, aerialist; The Poppino Duo (Obandos), comedy low wire; Display with the Juggling Jewels and The Navarros on unicycles; Ethel's Leaping Greyhounds; Miss Gee Gee and her liberty ponies; Clowns "Big Bug"; Display with Sword Balancing by Ethel Jennier and Mafalda; The Carlos Duo, perch act; Clowns with Acure-puncture; Display with Dubsy's Chimps, Jo-Ann & Sunny and Dubsy's Uncaged Leopards; Joselito, high wire; Intermission; The Flying Lanes, trapeze; Clown walk-around with big heads; James Zoppe Family, riding act; Display with the Young Troupe on trampoline and The Royal Hungarian Family, risley; Jack Cook and his Comedy Car; Aerial display with nine web girls and featuring Miss Aerialetta on the trapeze; Gee

IN MEMORIAM

ALBERT A. RHINE (91), a former vice president of the San Francisco magic ring, died in that city on Jan. 7th. He was a member of the Islam Shrine Temple and the Press Club. He presented magic regularly for patients at the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children and for this work was awarded a "Fez" with the title of Magician, the only such Fez ever awarded in the U. S.

Gee's Cossack Elephants; The Sensational Leighs on the Space Wheel.

Clown Alley consisted of: Vern Woerner, producing, David Chabirra, Bruce Warner, Buck Nolan, John Mc Kay, Billy Ford, Eddie Bush, Rick Legg and Bubba Hastings.

The show's staff included: Producers, Grace McIntosh and Charles Marine; Announcer, Jimmy Douglass; Assistant to the performance director, Bill Galloway; Band Director, Boom Boom Browning; Prop Boss, Manuel Navarro; Aerial Director, Miss Esther; Transportation, Carlos Obando; Lighting, Billy Barton; Wardrobe, Miss Pamela.

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Features

The following acts were set for the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus engagement at Stoney Brook, N.Y. on Feb. 18. Crawford & Gloria, magic; Erick Trostl, high wire; Al's Pals, liberty ponies; Vidbel's elephants; Satani Demon, fire manipulator; Cimse's Russian Wolfhounds and Pomeranians; Tall Top, stilt walker; Mike Monroe, comedy trampoline; Ken Sherburne, juggler; Ringmistress, Nancy Kelly.

(The Vidbels were unable to make the date due to the bad weather and some truck problems. Rose Adair then provided Zippy the Chimp and Alfie and his comedy Macaws for the date).

Acts scheduled to appear for the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus date at Stevens Point, Wisc. on March 11th are:

Jo Ann & Sunny, seal act; Aerialetta, trapeze; The

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(Emmett will appear in the first two shows then flys back to Fort Lauderdale to continue his work on the film which stars Jerry Lewis.)

Acts set for the Emmett Kelly Circus at Salt Lake City, Utah, on March 31st will be:

The Monahans, comedy knockabout/risley; the Ferguson Troupe, trampoline/revolving ladder; Satani Demon, fire manipulator; Pam Rosaire, chimps; Herman & Petunia, comedy riding act; Zoppe's Arabian Riders plus ringmistress, Nancy Kelly and prop boss J. P. Grimshaw.

WANTED

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SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

Will the weather break in time for the March openings of the tent shows? The south has been covered with ice and was having sleet storms as this is being written at the end of February. One can't help but wonder if the tent shows don't rush the season a bit?

That ad in CR on Feb. 19th, showing the Sells & Gray and King Bros. Circus were for sale, including all equipment and title, should answer all questions about their future. A lack of good advance people and strong sponsors caused their demise. There just aren't many good advance men around these days.

A note to Clowns: The clown's traditional white face makeup was introduced by French Clown Pierrot later in the 17th Century. The Sept. 1978 issue of the CFA magazine 'King Pole' has 4 pages of British show clowns with pictures and comments. Watch for future reprints from this article by the writer.

As explained in an earlier column, British shows call their center poles 'king poles'. Guess what they call the long quarter poles - you guessed it 'Queen poles'. The big top used on the Circus of Champions Show is the largest top in England, used by the Gerry Cotter Circus.

The Flying Cavarettas were the subject of a story in the Sept. 1978 issue of 'King Ale' and included a color photo on the front page. Ringling Blue with Elvin Bale were the subject of a story toward the back of that same magazine. It is indeed an excellent publication.

According to reports still circulating "Circus America" is still toying with the idea of a late '79 or early '80 tour. It took Ringling three years to get their 3rd unit on the road, let's hope it doesn't take that long to get "Circus America" going.

Here's an item that should amaze you. The world's youngest lion trainer is 10 year old Karl Nawmann.

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The Circus

The following people were featured with the Carden-Johnson Circus at its Feb. 20-25 engagement in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Mike Pike, band leader; Cleo Plunkett; Frank Galambo Bill Golden, tigers; Bob and Edna Top; Frank & Estrelita; Cavanaugh's; Diamond Duo; Cuccillo; Hanzini; Pepe and Ortega; Miss Gina; The Gutis Family; Bobby and Rosa Gibbs; Zapata Bros.; Marcos; Klonox; Edwardos; Armando; Miss Medro; Miss Ivy; Cathy; Edna; Frank Clark; Cindy; Maya; Barbara; Eleanor; the Shamsky's chimps; Bobby's Dogs; Upton's Cougar; Klonox, teeterboard; Gilberto; Chin Biaz; Olmedas, horses; Adel Gory, comedy; the Flying Carrolls; John Walker, Jr.; George Garden; Bill Golden; Zerbini Riding act; the Fossett sway pole act.

The young sensation of World Circus in Madrid, Spain stands only 3 ft. 11 in. tall in his silver boots and weighs only 65 lbs. His father, who is a trainer, says Karl has been playing with lions, tigers and panthers since he was 3 yrs. old. They wouldn't hurt him, he stated. "Of course I wouldn't let him do it if I thought it was dangerous."

Several shows have contacted the Louisiana Purchase Garden & Zoo to seek animals for their menagerie. One show wanted a hippo (which we don't have), while another wanted baby Jaguars (we do have them). The zoo is planning an early spring opening. It is not known whether DoDo the Clown will be back this season - if so it will make his 6th season as resident clown. DoDo would like to hear from John MacKay about some dates (needs confirmation).

Again I'm indebted to Jim Forrest. Jim is my source on British and European circuses and I get enough information from him to write a special column at least once a month on overseas circuses. If you are interested let us know.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

mals'...BUCK NOLAN, who returns to the Great American Circus, has to be the Circus World's Champion Flea Market enthusiast. He even had one in the basement of the War Memorial during the Rochester date.

RALPH SCHAPPACHER went to Puerto Rico with the Moscow Circus and is Transportation Director for the Stateside tour. Tis whispered that his main objective in going to Puerto Rico was to play with "Russian Bares" Now, Ralph!...Meanwhile the DIAMOND S RODEO starts up the end of May and runs until mid-October. Wife DORIS accompanied the Blonde Bombshell (GEE GEE) to the Rochester Shrine Date which was supposed to be Doris' vacation. Some vacation! Gee Gee has started out her season with breakdowns and the gals were stranded twice enroute. On top of that Gee Gee, who was so worried about the elephant truck, forgot to put gas in the car and ran dry 30 miles from the date. Gee Gee was stranded first in Richmond with a burned out bearing in the semi-trailer and had to drive 400 miles to find the part, was stranded a second time in snow near Harrisburg. When I talked to her by phone and asked what she was doing, she quipped, "Oh, hell, I just gave up and decided to make a few snow men."

SNAPSHOTS: BOOM BOOM BROWNING will play the Wheaton date for SANDY DOBRITCH. He put music together for the new comedy low wire act of

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CARLOS OBANDOS, the NAVARRO's bike act, and for MISTER SENSATION...CARDEN-JOHNSON has three units on the road this season, one of which I understand will make a lengthy tour in Canada...MICKEY YOUNG is the "new" top-mounter in the teeterboard act - first time in years, and doing great...ANNA FRITZ is no longer with Circus Vargas and MILLIE WARD is in charge of wardrobe...ROBIN LEIGH has an adorable parrot (6 months old) that acts more like a dog than a bird. It's name is TACO and it was everyone's favorite during the Rochester date... In addition to collecting antique musical instruments JIMMY and VERN now collect antique clocks... About five days into the Circus Vargas tour the gorilla costume was stolen between shows...during the tear-down the stolen gorilla suit was spotted traveling through the parking lot on a moped and was "re-captured"... BRENDA GALLOWAY is doing perch and low wire with CARLOS OBANDOS...PEPE (Jose Cuenca) formerly with the Obando high wire act, is out on his own doing a hand balancing act called JOSE FRANCISCO...Reports are that Old Chicago has closed its doors...CARLOS, debuting his new comedy low wire act, celebrated that debut by fracturing his toe the first day! In case yadidn't know the Obando high wire act is officially retired, the last date was played at the Texas State Fair where RICARDO CANISTRELLI helped out, thus setting off rumors that young Ricardo had joined the act...Not so...The ZAMPERLA riding act will be one of the features on

(Continued on Page 17)

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CIRCUS SUES CITY (Continued)

The other defendants include the principals who participated in the design and construction of the ill-fated space frame roof which a city-backed investigation concluded was flawed when it was erected in 1972.

Among them are: Bethlehem Steel Corp., fabricators and erectors of the space frame; the four partnerships or corporate entities known as Fraoli, Blum and Yesselman of Hartford and Norfolk, Va., structural engineers hired to design the roof, and their principals, Werner Blum and Philip Wesler; Gilbane Building Co., of Providence, general contractor, and Vincent G. Kling and Associates of Philadelphia, the architects.

The same defendants were named in damage suits filed by The Travelers Insurance Cos. and the city of Hartford. Travelers is seeking \$14.037 million, the amount a Travelers-led consortium already has paid out in claims in connection with the roof collapse.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

the Texas Dates this fall, and those stories of injuries to members of the troupe are false.

KEEPER OF THE FLAMES: When Mister Sensation bowed in the spotlights his headpiece burst into flames. Seems a spark from the fireworks ignited the unusual blaze. A bit scorched and singed the performer returned the next day, to the "scene of the ash" but decided to leave that routine from his repertoire!

See you down the road, luv.

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REVIEW

RINGLING-BARNUM - Red Unit

by Eugene H. Kirkman

Once again it has been circus time in Greensboro, N.C., with the Red Unit of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. It may not have been the old circus, but it is "The Greatest Show on Earth."

On Tuesday (with snow on the ground) the elephants, horses, llamas and other animals were unloaded at the Southern Railway freight tracks and were walked by trainers and super showman Gunther Gebel-Williams leading the two mile walk to the Coliseum up a busy city street. It was not the old street parade, but it gave the fans some of the old circus spirit. At the Coliseum this 109th edition of RBBB gave 12 performances during this period of Feb. 13-18. It opened on Tuesday night to an audience of 11,200 setting an opening record for the 20 years of the extravaganza has come to the Greensboro Coliseum. Other performances had good crowds also.

You simply can't see enough - or all of this circus. From the moment it opens with ringmaster Kit Haskett and the "Illustrious Assemblage" to the farewell "Memorable Moment", it has been a big three-ring circus. You will have to pick and choose. An act you will not miss is Gunther Gebel-Williams with his tigers;

liberty horses; pumas, panthers and leopards; elephants and the rare white tiger - Maharane.

Other great circus features are the Carrillo Brothers, wire walkers, the tension is so great. Duo Evelyn and the Armon - two good aerial acts. Dolly Jacobs - on roman rings, her knees catching the ring leaves the crowd dazed. Carl Wong - swaypole; on the teeterboard you have - The Otto, Malevolti Troupe and The Kisfaludi Troupe; on trampoline you have the Astorelli Troupe, Canestrellis Family and the Los Huracanos - all a show stopper, with their quadruple twisting somersaults five and six high.

Your scalp will really crawl when Marguerite Michele does her act while suspended in center ring by her hair as the feature in the aerial production "Circus Can-Can". She is like Sampson, but better looking, a real beauty and artist.

Then at the same time there is Wally Naghtin's Bears, Rudi Lenz Chimps and Mickey Antalek Chimps; also at the same time is Alicia Farfan's Poodles, Anna Farfan's Domermans and Lona's Dogs. You just don't have three eyes and more than one brain. After all this you have the Flying Seguras and the Flying Farfans on trapeze. And so it goes, you will need to go to three performances.

(Continued on Page 19)

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RBBB Review (Continued)

For clowns there is Lou Jacobs and Knucklehead, plus 24 others in clown alley led by Victor Ruiz, Leonard Wolen and Chuck Sidlow. Sorry, can't name them all, but they are funny.

On Friday afternoon the real Greensboro firemen rushed to the exhibition building at the Coliseum where the animals were housed, when a cardboard box caught fire alongside a wagon, with lots of smoke. The wagon was being welded at the time, but both humans and animals escaped injury. The circus personnel using fire extinguishers quickly doused the fire.

The circus is life with its ups and downs. On Tuesday it arrived with snow on the ground, by Friday it was 68 degrees, but on Sunday another snow storm with high winds hit the city. Because of the snow storm both of the performances for Sunday were cancelled, a first for this area where snow is not a usual occurrence. With its hardships, as always, they put on a good show. Thanks to all of those who are with the RBBB Red Unit.

MOORE's Mongrel Revue and MURRAY HILL's elephants were featured in the Osmond TV Special called "Rock Circus" on March 4th.

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PEOPLE

PERRY F. JOHNSON will be bandleader on the Carson & Barnes Circus again this season. His wife, VIRGIE will be selling reserved seat tickets on the show.

JAMES M. COLE hosted a dinner party for members of his circus cast, their families and friends at Geneva, N. Y., on March 3rd.

DAVE TWOMEY's Happytime Circus was featured at the March 2-11 Mid-Winter Fair at Imperial, Calif.

SASHA RAWLS, daughter of CAROL and DAVID, celebrated her 6th birthday at a party on the James M. Cole All Star TV Circus on Feb. 22nd. She is the fourth generation of her family to tour with the annual circus presentation.

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