



7th Year

November 13, 1978

Number 46

## Thrill Show Plans Set

The "Evil Knievel Thrill Spectacular" will be presented in 40 Australian cities during the early part of 1979, featuring a cast of top stunt people from around the world. Knievel will host the show and perform in one segment of the program in addition to demonstrating his unique collection of motorcycles, trucks and automobiles.

Jim Lawrence, vice president of Amusement Enterprises, Houston, Texas, is producing the show, and booking the American acts for the Michael Edgley Organization, Australia's largest promotion and production company.

"We have assembled the best Thrill Acts from America, Australia, England and Denmark for this spectacular show," said Lawrence. "In addition to the usual motorcycle and automobile stunts we will have an act that has never been seen in person before, and one act that has not worked on an American Thrill Show in over a decade."

Debuting on the Australian tour is Siros' Loop-the-Loop, which combines a little of the 'Globe of Death' and the Motordrome. It's inventor and builder, Bill Siros, said the rider has two important things to concentrate on when performing the stunt: exact speed and negotiating a turn when he is at the top of the 24 foot loop, while upside down. "We tested it once before," Siros pointed out, "a Hollywood stunt

man was hired to work it for a TV commercial, but he fell and they ended up editing the film to show a complete loop."

Siros' Loop-the-Loop design was used to build a similar model for the motion picture "Earthquake" with Richard Pryor playing the part of the stuntman. The stuntman doubling for Pryor fell during the filming.

(Continued on Page 19)

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*Paul V. Kaye*

# HOLLYWOOD ELEPHANTS

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PAUL V. KAYE

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## Show Report

"The International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo Spectacular", a one ring, European-style circus is scheduled to make its debut in America in February 1979, according to recent news reports. The show will be presented in conjunction with Irvin and Kenneth Feld, co-producers of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

The talent and format of the circus will offer American audiences an opportunity to see centuries-old European circus traditions. "It will be an outstanding and memorable show business first," says Irvin Feld.

A multi-media unit will be a part of the circus presentation, with a special filmed introduction by Prince Rainier. Projected on a giant screen, audiences via the "larger than life" screen image will share in the festival awards ceremonies conducted over the past five years, while some acts who have won awards will present their numbers in person.

## PEOPLE

**TOM HAWBECKER** was honored at a reception at the Magic Castle in Los Angeles, Calif., on Sept. 4, and was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in the Academy of Magic Arts (the Magic Castle).

**JOHN BURKE**, former administrative assistant at the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup, Wash., has been named manager of California's Contra Costa Fair in Antioch. He took over

**JOHN BURKE**, former administrative assistant of the Western Washington Fair at Puyallup has been named manager of the Contra Costa County Fair at Antioch, Calif. He will assume his new duties as of Nov. 15th.

**JOHNNIE HART**, magician, is appearing with a circus in Denmark. Observers report he does a terrific job.

**CARL BECK** is working at Knotts Berry Farm in Buena Park, Calif. His magic/illusion act includes lions and tigers.

## YEARS AGO

### COLE BROS. CIRCUS

Oakland, Calif. - Sept. 12-13, 1936

The Cole Bros. Circus arrived in Oakland, after having played in Santa Rosa. The train pulled in about 8:10 a.m. and was spotted at 9 a.m. and finally was unloaded by 10:20 a.m.

The circus has 29 cars (14 flat cars, 7 horse cars, 8 sleepers) and 62 wagons. Their colors are stock and flat cars aluminum, coaches dark green and the wagons are red.

They gave a parade on the first day which started at 11:45 a.m. the performances were presented at 2:45 and 8:15 p.m. with good crowds for each one.

Their animals include: 20 elephants, 4 camels, a bison, buffalo, zebra, 96 draft horses and 60 ring horses.

The tents are: 4 pole big top, 6 pole menagerie, 5 pole dressing top, 4 pole side show with 14 banners, two horse tents, 7 pole each, 5 pole dining tent, 3 pole kitchen, 3 pole marquee, four candy stands, 2 poles each, 5 small tents and the Petrified Man.

The Cole Bros. Circus parade, as recorded at South Bend, Ind., on May 5, 1936, consisted of:

Six riders, Lion & Mirror bandwagon with 8 horses; Cage 19 with 4 lions, 4 horses; Cage 26 with 3 lions, 4 horses; Cage 22 with 3 lions, 4 horses; Cinderella Float, 6 ponies; Cage 27 with 3 lions, 4 horses; Four riders; Cage 23 with 3 lions, 4 horses; Two riders; Cage 21 with 4 lions, 4 horses; Cage 25 with 2 lions, 6 horses; Five riders; Cage 24 with 3 tigers, 4 horses; Cage 17 with 3 tigers, 1 lion, 4 horses; Cage 16 with 3 tigers, 4 horses; Palm Tree tab with Clown band, 6 horses; Columbia tab with No. 2 band, 8 horses; Old Woman in Shoe float, 6 ponies; Five riders; Asia tab with side show band, 6 horses; Six riders; Cage 18 with 2 tigers, 4 horses; Buggy with 2 horses; America tab, 6 horses; Cage 14 with monkeys, 4 horses; Twelve Wid West riders; Mother Goose float, 6 ponies; Cage 12 with monkeys, 6 donkeys; 2 zebras; 4 camels; 18 elephants; Steam calliope with 6 horses.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530 - Phone: (415) 525-3332.

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17-20 Tucson

Tomi Liebel Family Circus  
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NC

Lin Rich Animal Circus  
Nov 17-Dec 3 Tampa, Fla.

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16 Barnwell  
17 Williston  
18 St. Mathews

--- OTHER DATES ---

Blackstone, Jr. Magic Show  
Nov 14 Rochester, NY  
15 Ogdensburg  
17-19 Scranton, Pa.

Holiday On Ice - Int'l Unit  
Nov 14-19 Flint, Mich.

Holiday On Ice - Nat'l Unit  
to Nov 19 Indianapolis, Ind.

IAAPA Convention  
Nov 16-18 Atlanta, Ga.

Ice Capades - Eastern Unit  
to Nov 20 Montreal, Quebec

Ice Capades - Western Unit  
Nov 14-19 Fresno, Calif.

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IRWIN and KENNETH FELD announced officially in Detroit that the International Monte Carlo Festival Circus was becoming a reality in Venice, Fla. and would open in Philadelphia in Feb. 1979.

BAKER BROWN who will be Gen. Mgr. of the new Monte Carlo unit has crews working in quarters on the new train, backdrop, ring curbs, props, etc. It's been said there are more props for the Monte Carlo show than there are for both Ringling units! In addition a complete new line of posters and novelty items are being developed and souvenirs are being purchased from all over the world.

The FELDS also announced future plans for touring a circus under canvas in Australia.

CLOSEUPS: Working with ROLAND KAISER who heads up the concessions of Ringling Red, is DICK SLAYTON. Dick was formerly an RBBB side show manager and an announcer from Ringling's past canvas days. Dick was also the ringmaster for HAROLD VOISE when he had his show in the late 50's. . . . JOHN CUNEO leased a lion to the MGM Grand for their "Hello, Hollywood, Hello" extravaganza which sits on a pedestal and which is connected to a curtain. When the curtain is lowered, there sits the lion . . .

BLACKSTONE played the new Maryland Arts Theatre in Hagerstown (Md) Oct. 19 . . . Set for the EMMETT KELLY, Jr. Circus at Birmingham (Mich) Nov. 24-26 are the ELKINS SISTERS, LILLI-ANA, KIM KRISTENSEN and MARIO MANZINI. . . .

Since Emmett's wife has turned ringmistress she's been taking instruction from, who else, but Count NICHOLAS. Nancy was having serious headaches. A doctor advised her to cut her hair which was very long and thick and pulled against her tender scalp causing the pain. She did. Now - no more headaches! . . .

PAUL KAYE told me the Christmas Circus Engagement coming up at Capitol Centre in Landover (Md) Dec. 25-Jan. 7 has still not been given a format - whether it's to be one ring, European, or 3 ring American. . . .

CFA Convention Chairman KEN KURTZ rode an elephant in the animal march from the Amtrack Station to Cobo Hall when Ringling Red played Detroit (Oct. 5-15). Ken also clowned one morning show and guested in the come-in and clown car. . . . The Dedication Ceremonies of the JAMES A. BAILEY Historical Marker at the entrance to Cobo Hall was picked up by UPI and hit the newspapers in at least 17 cities

PAULA and SEBASTIAN ADRIANI are enjoying much success with their new musical-magic opus called MAGIC ODYSSEY. DANA, one of the boys in the act has added a comedy-magic routine, and the troupe is using several more illusions including sawing a member of the audience in half. But what Paula is really thrilled about is their completely

NEW motorcycle illusion which they are keeping under wraps.

Actress NANETTE FABRAY filed suit in L.A. Superior Court against the trainers and owners of the elephant that injured her. Her claim is that the men responsible should have known the elephant was - quote "of a vicious disposition and likely to attack and injure human beings" - unquote. Tsk! Tsk, Nanette!

Lion trainer JEWELL NEW struck a large newspaper spread in the Denver Post (Oct. 7) and reveals that he will be in the new RBBB motion picture, produced by IRWIN ALLEN, which gets underway in 1979.

SNAPSHOTS: JUDY JACOBS hosted an "after-show" party when the Pumpkin Festival shttered on Oct. 29. . . . SIEGFRIED & ROY, now starring at L. V.'s LIDO have new members for their "cat" family with two of the three existing "lepiacs" in the world - which is a unique combination of leopard and jaguar - the cubs made their debut at Roy's birthday party. Among the hundreds attending the party were Joan Rivers, Liberace, Bernadette Peters and Rip Taylor. . . . SHARON WARD, showgirl with Royal Hanneford had a real hair-raising journey over the mountains to visit yrs. truly when she was enroute to Baltimore. She had shifted into second gear but jumped into neutral by mistake. Racing down the steep mountain the steering locked, the brakes failed. Using the emergency brake she managed to slow and come to a stop. Needless to say she arrived white and shaken and a nervous wreck. But, she made it! . . . TEDDY STEWART, now retired from show biz is doing Cancer Research at the Life Service Institute in Florida. Working with molecules, DNA, viruses, isotopes and such is a far cry from swinging on trapeze bars, I'd say.

APRIL FOSSETT is the only distributor in Florida area for a new product called Dynique, plus a second cosmetic line called Mystique. The former is a face-lift formula based on the Aloe Vera plant that takes longer to work but has more permanency; the latter is of the "instant" variety but only lasts from 6 to 8 hours. I've tried them both and they're terrific, so contact April at: Box 554, Gibsonton, Fla. - 33534, or call: 813-677-7542 - tell her Billy sent you!

GUNTHER GEBEL WILLIAMS led the elephant, Nellie, up the ramp from Cobo Hall's arena floor level to the building's entrance to unveil the JAMES A. BAILEY Historical Marker but Nellie refused to take the rope in her trunk. Ended up that Gunther tied the rope to the elephant hook. First time, my informant told me, that an animal was "boss" over Ring-

(Continued on Page 16)

## PHONE PROMOTERS

MAN and WIFE TEAM OK — To work West Coast Dates.

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— NO COLLECT CALLS —

## SPECIAL

A special "Night To Remember" was organized as a benefit program for juggler Kristavo, of San Francisco, who is unable to work because of back injuries. Kris was injured early this year as a result of a fall and has been laid-up ever since.

The benefit show was organized by San Francisco area performers who, like Kris, are ineligible for workers compensation.

Presented at the Artaud Theatre in San Francisco on Nov. 10th, the show featured: Rosie Radiator and the Pushrods, the Bay City Reds, jugglers, Sandy Counts, tightrope, Rainbow, the Mime, the Pickle Family Circus Clowns, Hillary Carlip, juggler, Zanita, globe, the Oberlin Dance Collective, Dr. H. P. Lovecraft, magic and Weslia Whitfield, singer. In addition Margo St. James held a cake auction.

## PEOPLE

MARC "Mickey the Clown" DIAMOND is joining the STU MILLER magic show and all of his "roust-a-bouts" wish Marc and his wife KELLY, the best of luck.

HARRY and FERNE CHIPMAN were guests at the MONTIE MONTANA ranch in Southern California on Oct. 29th. Some of the stars there were ROY ROGERS, REX ALLEN and EDDIE DEAN.

WARD HALL reports that there were several visit-

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ors to his show which recently played the Dallas Fair. They included: the LOTER Family; JOE LEMKE; DOUG LYONS, TIM STINSON, CHAS. 'Termite' DAVENPORT, MIKE McGUIRE, MEL SILVERLAKE and family; HARRY De La FONTAINE; HARRY ELLIS; PAUL K. BAUER, DON WASHBURN and PHIL SHEAR.

WARREN 'Woody' WOOD, director of the Great All American Youth Circus, served as circus talent recruiter for the Gurnee, Ill., and Santa Clara, Calif., productions of Circus Fantastic at Marriott's Great America family entertainment centers. Woody also spent the summer as resident circus trainer for the Santa Clara theme park.

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**REPORT****HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS**

by M. L. Dupont

In an earlier issue of CR I reported that it appeared that no tenters were going to play Louisiana. Then suddenly in the space of one week this writer spent a day on Hoxie Bros. Circus at New Orleans and visited Carson & Barnes in Vidalia, La. Since Erwin Royce reported on the acts in an earlier issue and Ron Sanford reviewed C&B this report deals with other aspects of the shows. (C&B Report is on another page of this issue)

Hoxie Bros. Circus came into New Orleans for a 3 day stand Oct. 13-15, sponsored by the New Orleans Jaycees, and ended up staying four days. The program was very strong and Hoxie makes the most of his one ring format. The show is well received and moves at a fast and easy pace.

A strong asset for the show is ringmaster Jim Royal, a singing announcer, who does a most creditable job in keeping the show moving. The opening spec with the entire company and all 7 elephants and other animals is very impressive and gets the show and audience off to a good start.

The tent is a huge two pole top, blue canvas. It has 16 short quarter poles and 8 long quarter poles, all of metal. It peaks out at a good height for the webs and flying act. It is lighted by triple decked quartz lights in 4 places with the ring having 4 single quartz lights. This provides excellent lighting. The top is in fair shape for its second season on the road.

The midway has two pit shows on the right, an ape show and another one, while on the left is the ticket and office wagon and the snake pit show. Down the center of the midway is a novelty stand, cotton candy stand and a concession stand, which was operated by Whitey Black. Just inside the marquee by the front door was a juice stand on the right.

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**PEOPLE**

GENE MENDEZ, high wire performer, will wind up his engagement at the Great Adventure Park late this month, then in January opens in Portugal.

BOB EMERICO, clown/magician, is touring with a variety show in the Pacific Northwest. Following that tour he jumps into California for his annual run of Holiday dates.

**Miscellaneous**

The Beatty-Cole Circus played to straw houses at Valdosta, Ga. in late October.

The tent at this stand had no long or short side. The seating took up about 2/3 of the circle with the remaining third taken up by the entrances, band stand and the cage act which was against the sidewall.

An elephant ride was operated on the right side of the front of the midway. James "Dutch" Crawford had joined the show, replacing J. Walker as elephant supt. Dutch worked the liberty act, which was formerly handled by Laura Herriott Walker. The cat act recently lost its hind leg walking lion and Mike Cecere does a creditable job in the small arena. It would have been seen better if it had been in center ring, but due to a lack of help it was set up near the back sidewall.

An outstanding feature on the show was the Campa Family. They do one of the funniest musical acts I've seen in many a day. Walt Stimax handles clowning, but is hampered by a lack of clowns in the alley. The Wazzan Family were on the show when I caught it, and do a strong number of turns. However, they reportedly were leaving to play other dates.

Del Graham has the Flying Viennas, an all girl flying act on the show. They do a fine job, travel in their own bus unit.

There are 18 show owned pieces of equipment, all in good shape and much evidence was present to show equipment had recently been painted and repaired. They continue to use lots of Hoxie purple and white. Attendance during the first three days of the New Orleans date was good to excellent. Overall for the year business had varied up and down, one showman said, They were leaving New Orleans for dates in Mississippi, followed by some Florida stands, then planned to close on Nov. 12th.

My thanks for the cordial welcome given me by John Lewis and members of the front office.

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**SPECIAL**

by Billy Barton

A strong, well received program was produced by Sam T. Polack for the Ben Kedem Shrine Temple in Charleston, W.Va. Musical director for the Oct. 20-22 date was William Browning, with an excellent 16 piece band. Heading up Clown Alley was Phil Granger, producing and come-in, supported by Billy Ford, Eddie Busch, Les Schmitt, Michele Malvern and Nick Pinto. The ringmaster was Al Dawley and Ron Kelroy was supt.

The program featured: Harry Thomas, tigers; Frank & Estreleta, aerial; Cimse's Wolfhounds and Pomeranians; Clowns (long shirt); the Great Vasheck, inclined wire walk; the Kellys, comedy rola bola; the Fulbrights, horses; Clowns (sharp shooter), and the Flying Lunas.

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**Miscellaneous**

The Tulsa (Okla) Zoo will soon receive three tawny frogmouths, an Australian bird. The unusual birds will be loaned to Tulsa by the Bronx Zoo for an Australian exhibit which is currently under construction.

The tawny frogmouths are 14 to 15 inches long and have a very wide bill. They are night creatures and seldom move during the daytime. Their plumage is the color of tree branches making them difficult to spot by observers.

The second half opened with Sandy Fulbright's pony drill; Francarro, head balance traps; My-Imba's Ba-boons; Clowns (levitation); The Klementis, bikes; Jorge Rosell's comedy car; Clowns (dentist); the Tony Diano elephants; The Vasheck Duo, aerial motorcycle.

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by  
**DON MARCKS**

It's always sad to see a paper fold and especially so when it is one that you enjoy. So it is with a feeling of sorrow that we announce the demise of "Son Of Bat, Jr." published by Lloyd E. Jones.

After some ten years of publishing the monthly paper Lloyd has decided to give it up. "It's too much pressure and takes too much of my time", he said. "I figure I can produce more books, take better care of business, etc., without the pressure of meeting deadlines."

S.O.B. Jr. was a magic publication that offered a variety of news, magic, cartoons, jokes, reviews and such. It was a highly respected paper and one that believed in telling the truth. One that wasn't afraid to call a spade a spade, something many papers just don't have the nerve to do.

Pete Biro, the paper's featured columnist, will join the staff of "Genii" a slick paper monthly published in Southern California. Pete's column should be a big asset for that publication.

What's Lloyd going to do? Well, he's not going out of business! He plans to continue publishing and selling books. Then starting in February 1979 he will start a new and then publication called "Bat Droppings." It will provide readers with news about books that are currently available and probably offer some reviews. There will also be specials for the readers.

We know the pressures of deadlines, the late night hours that are required and all of the other work that goes into publishing a paper, and so we can understand Lloyd's wanting to get away from it. We wish him well with his new ideas, but the loss of his S.O.B. Jr. will leave a void that can never be filled.

(By the way, if you'd like to get a copy of the first issue of "Bat Droppings" send 25c to: Lloyd E. Jones 4064 - 39th Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94619).

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## Show Dates

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Tampa, Fla. - - -

Beatty-Cole - Nov. 16-19

Lin-Rich Animal Circus - Nov 17-Dec 3

Chicago, Ill. - - - -

Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit - to Nov. 19

Ice Follies - Nov. 14-26

Manzini - Nov. 16-19

## Correction

A recent report on these pages about the Dr. Pepper Circus at the State Fair in Dallas resulted in an error or two and an omission from the program line-up.

The circus pre-show warm-up was worked by clowns Sparky (Don Washburn) and Phillipe (Phil Shear). As a number in the circus program Sparky presented his popular floating cane routine.



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**Mailroom**

Circus Report is holding mail that the Post Office says it is unable to deliver. The mail is addressed to:

Hap Roberts                      Toby Twist  
 Karol Lavia

**Miscellaneous**

Carson & Barnes Circus ended its 1978 season at Paris, Texas, on Nov. 1st. The show then went into quarters at Hugo, Okla.

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There will also be lots of news about the upcoming season of 1979, so don't miss a single copy. If you have not done so, then order your subscription now - it is just \$15.00 a year. Write: Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. - 94530

**PEOPLE**

**STAN** and **KATHLEEN KRAMIEN** completed their current magic show tour in time to fly into Los Angeles over the weekend to attend the "It's Magic" Show at the Variety Arts Theatre.

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AL DeLAGE and MARGARET were featured on the show for the 11th annual New England Magicians Convention at New Haven, Conn. Also appearing on the show were: NICK RUGGIERO, EARL CANAPP, CARLOS CAMBRA, CHAS. VAN, and HARGER & WANDA. DeLage and Margaret closed the show with their new exchange illusion.

HAL HAVILAND along with his high school pony "Timothy O'leary" is working a series of school show dates., which will be followed by some club dates during the Holiday season in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Fans Meet**

Approximately 100 members and guests attended the Father Ed Sullivan Tent No. 118, Greater Boston CFA, fall meeting on Oct. 28th, at Maroni's Park in Shrewsbury, Mass.

**IN MEMORIAM**

RUSSELL T. WARNER (74) a past president of the Circus Model Builders and originator of that organization's magazine "Little Circus Wagon" died at his home in Harrisburg, Pa. on Oct. 22nd. He was also an active CFA and CHS member and was a personal friend of many circus performers and managers. He was responsible for getting the CMB recognition by many of today's circuses, thus bringing together the fan, trouper and management personnel. Survivors include his wife, Mildred and a brother William.

Tom Kulbabsky, outgoing president installed Mrs. Shirley MacNamara as the new 1979 president. Entertainment was provided by Fred Marco, magician, followed by Bob Pelton, asst. curator, Barnum Museum, of Bridgeport, Conn., who talked about Barnum and Tom Thumb and presented a slide show.

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**REPORT****CARSON & BARNES No. 2 Unit**

by M. L. Dupont

On Oct. 22nd, the director of the La. Purchase Gardens & Zoo, John Hassion and this writer drove 90 miles to Vidalia, La. to catch the No. 2 Unit of the Carson & Barnes Circus. We arrived about 11:30 a. m. to find the show setting up on a grassy lot next to a shopping center. No tents were in the air and it appeared they were late getting in from McComb.

The circus showed signs of wear and tear after the long tour in Canada. They were on their third tent for the year. The first tent was abandoned just before the Canadian tour, then they brought in the top that had formerly been on the George Matthews Circus. It is now stored on a truck and they were using a top sent in from Hugo.

The side show canvas was the old Fisher Bros. top of 1977 and was a two pole push top. The big top was also a push pole top, with 3 rings. There were two seat wagons on each end with planks and the stringers on the long side, while metal chairs were set directly on the ground on the short side. The matinee performance was to a full house and the mid-way got a lot of play.

The show was about 30 minutes late, with the mid-

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way blow off about 20 minutes before the main gates were opened. John Frazier handled it and did a good job of turning the crowd. The midway consisted of Manuel King's snake show on the right, plus the side show, with pictorials on two trucks that contained animals and cats. On the left side was the elephant ride and pony ride, run by Bobby Gibbs, with the ticket wagon and office next to the marquee.

The office wagon had come from the George Matthews Circus and still had the Great London logo on the side. None of the trucks carried any C&B logos, but one bull truck had the C&B red stripes. Show equipment seemed to have come from the old Fisher Bros., Royal Bros., George Matthews and C&B.

Bobby Gibbs, assisted by Ken Benson, announced the show and kept it moving at a good pace. Bobby does an excellent job with his elephants and the comedy routine is a real crowd pleaser. Young Wayne Ragen does a good job with the cats, 3 tigers and 3 lions in a 38 ft. steel arena. Sandy Johnson is in charge of the clowning, assisted by Katie Neilson.

Johnny Frazier was all over the lot seeing that everything was moving according to plan and so this reporter was unable to visit with him. Bobby Gibbs and the show personnel made our visit a good one and the zoo director even assisted Bobby after the show with the elephant ride. The show is carrying 10 elephants, with 2 African punks in the herd.

**Miscellaneous**

Circus Vargas played to packed houses despite local competition at El Paso from the Ice Capades.

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## Suit Filed

The State of Texas has filed a suit in District Court in Dallas against a circus promoter, charging he violated the state's Deceptive Trade Practices Act. They have asked that \$10,000 be awarded to persons suffering monetary loss as a result of the promoters "scheme" and that a permanent injunction be granted.

The suit charges that Frank David White, owner of Lone Star Productions, entered into an agreement with Dallas Emergency Corps to raise money through telephone solicitations and arrange a circus for handicapped children.

However, White allegedly violated the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act when his "nominal" effort to organize the event only drew 26 handicapped

**ROD Mac KENZIE III**, now back in the USA until the first of the year, will start breaking new high acts in winter quarters at Chicago as of April 1979.

Those I have talked with contact me at: Buffalo Breath Gap Circus Studios, 1434½ West Fletcher St., Chicago, Ill. - 60657.

Del J. Graham, contact me.

Ivan Henry, contact me.

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children out of 400 who attended two circus performances.

Moreover, the suit charged, persons who purchased tickets to the circus were led to believe they paid \$9.00 to admit five handicapped children to the event. But White allegedly never made plans to arrange for the attendance of handicapped children. Instead, he reportedly passed out so-called "special passes" to elementary school pupils "without regard for whether or not any of these children were in any manner handicapped or retarded," the suit said.

White was also accused of failing to file an assumed name certificate to do business in Dallas County.

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## SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

This reporter was honored during an Oct. 16th visit to Hoxie Bros. Circus at New Orleans, when John Lewis presented him with an Honorary Ringmaster certificate. I wish to thank all of the personnel of the Hoxie Circus for the courtesy shown me while I was on their lot. My thanks to John Lewis for the Canadian lithos, circus tickets, program and other items he gave me for my collection.

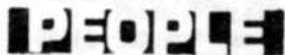
Paul Robinson, former office mgr, of Stebbing's Royal European Circus, was on the Hoxie show, in the same capacity. Thanks also to Paul for making my visit a pleasant one. Robinson said Hoxie's elephant "Bonnie" made a TV commercial for Selstrom Mfg. Co. of Chicago. Also an educational TV camera crew from the Univ. of Mid American spent two weeks on the show filming a documentary.

This reporter had spent eight years trying to catch Hoxie Bros. and thought he had once again missed it, but on arriving in New Orleans found the show had booked an extra day for the Metarie Jaycees, the first 3 days were for the N.O. Jaycees.

The movie part that Al Dawley will try out for is not circus related, but he informs this writer that the possibilities are unlimited. Al was ringmaster in the TV film "The Wallenda Story" and will be on some of Sam Polack's dates in '79 as well as at the Shreveport date.

DoDo the clown will work a string of dates for the TG&Y chain in No. Louisiana in Oct/Nov. DoDo also visited Sandy Johnson, who is producing clown on C&B's 2nd Unit and is a jack of all trades. Sandy is doing an excellent job and is assisted by a former Ringling graduate, a girl, Katie Neilson.

Word from Jack Bennett is that he recently saw a giraffe traveling down the road in a truck, but it was



RICK LEGG (Harry the Clown) reports that although he is a friend of DON BRIDWELL and has worked with him on many dates they are NOT partners. At the present time Rick is working dates for the Wisconsin Bureau of Lectures and Concerts.

CHUCK CRAW, GLENN DUNCAN, SCOTT FLOYD, DARRELL MEDLEY and TONY MEDLEY, performers from the Redlands, Calif., based Great All American Youth Circus, adjusted their Cyclopedic Cyclists unicycle act to include teenage record, TV and movie star LEIF GARRETT for the recent taping of the "Circus of the Stars" show

not a show truck. Probably it was a giraffe from the St. Louis Zoo going out on loan.

Walt Stimax handles the clowning on Hoxie, and his friend Erwin Royes, clown and magician was on the lot visiting. Dutch James Crawford joined Hoxie to take over the elephants after Johnny and Laura Walker left.

The Wazzan Family reportedly will tour with the Hanna-Barbera show in Australia this winter. Jim Royal, of Hoxie Bros. is a ringmaster who does an excellent job.

Great American cancelled out at West Point, Miss. when they learned that C&B's 2nd unit was in two days ahead of them and another show was coming in right behind them. Royal Hanneford was just two days ahead of C&B at McComb, Miss., and in Hazelhurst, Miss. C&B played the stockyards where they just sidewalled the show.

This reporter was saddened to learn of the death of Earl Allen on Oct. 21st. Earl was a close friend and will be sadly missed by me and his many show friends everywhere.

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## JUBILEE ON ICE

by Billy Barton

Following a 1600 mile jump, Jim Nordmark's new "Jubilee On Ice" opened in Johnstown, Pa., without benefit of a complete run-through. The first performance went off fairly well considering the complexities of the production and the postage stamp stage on which the show appeared.

The performance ran overlong, is to be scissored. Actually the first half moved smoothly. The second half however, fell apart and had to be cut because of running time. It's a fact that Jubilee On Ice is simply too unweildly for small high school auditoriums. This is a show constructed for medium-sized buildings, armories and arenas. It is also unsuited to one-day stands with two shows a day scheduled. If Nordmark is to achieve his aim, the current format will have to be altered. There seems no reason why this show, once it is organized, cannot survive on two, three, or even five day stands.

The show carries two se mis filled to capacity with lighting, props, and costumes. A crew of eight men currently handle the equipment. More may be needed.

Few touring shows of this type are so well equipped with lighting. Jubilee On Ice boasts two monster hydraulic lifts affixed with batteries of lights. There are tons of electric cable, three large panel boards, spotlights and chaser lights. A long hallway was filled with props, too large for a small stage, perfect for an arena.

On the plus side are fine musical arrangements and a very good band. Costumes have the dazzle one associates with ice revues. The sets are minimal but effective, the one area of the production geared to quick moves.

Magician Joe Eddie, Jr. registers a first class stage presence. He is tall, good-looking, well-costumed, moves well and exudes a suave image in the modern sense. The production numbers, all flashy, performed on plastic ice, serve to introduce Eddie's magic routines.

Performance stand-outs include the smash team of Bonnie & Clyde, Joe Eddie, Jr., Billy Earl with "Henrietta the Chicken" (a vent routine), and the solo skating of Michael Mikalonis who adds suspense when he leaps baskets in the "Fiesta" number. The show could use one more, good specialty act, especially a comedy turn to appeal to the kids.

On the demerit side are numbers which seem just a shade too long, purple lighting on blue feathers which turn them black (in fact, too often dark colored gels are in use), a lack of strong comedy, and a lack of strong skating. Choreographer Bobby Denard has done

a deft job with his line girls in nicely-paced numbers. For a first show the girls were surprisingly "together". The girls far outshine the boys, two of whom are just too overweight to appear in the line. They look grotesque.

Far too much vocalizing monopolizes the performance which isn't so bad when it's intergrated into a number but slows the tempo when handed a solo spot such as Dorothy Stratton's in the second half. Her solo comes on late, goes on too long, and makes the kids restless.

Two comedy routines by Batlin & Jarman leave much to be desired. The spots are neither funny nor do they help the show's momentum. Both numbers need to be trimmed (a lot) or eliminated. The first, a comedy drag adagio bit, comes on number two in the first half; their second "sailor" routine occupies the same spot in the second half. Unfortunately the show never regains its pace.

It is extremely difficult to hire top-notch skaters to skate on plastic ice (or so I am given to understand); but producer Nordmark must embark on an all-out search and coax at least two additional male skaters, and acquire a top-rated "au pair" team.

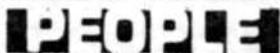
There is little question that "Jubilee On Ice", once its wrinkles are smoothed, will emerge as a nicely packaged piece of family entertainment. At its inception, however, it is neither an ice show nor a magic show. An attempt to combine the two isn't working - yet. Mainly the show needs more good skating. At least two of the production numbers should be vehicles to introduce something other than magic, either a sensational skater, an adagio skating team, or a fast-moving sight act.

A lot of money has been funneled into "Jubilee On Ice", and it shows, in the costumes, the music, the lighting, the special effects, and the overall "slick look" of the show. It also has a heavy nut, not so much in performers payroll as in the physical end, and in the advance. "Jubilee On Ice" cannot, like other small units, survive on three and four days a week and, unless, extra hands are added to move it, the show will need a day to move and set in properly.

At the close of its maiden-voyage eight week run, certainly the format of the show will be evaluated, the performance strengthened and changed. Meanwhile Jim Nordmark and his creative staff deserve the Big "E" for Effort. The show has unlimited potential and one wishes success for a production that has true value.

The cast includes: Joe Eddie, Jr., Bonnie & Clyde, Rick Earhart, Michael Mikalonis, Bobby Denard, Baltim and Jarman, Dorothy Stratton, Julie Savay, Billy Earl, and six line girls called the Jubilettes, who are Shaun Barry, Doreen Chapman, Phyllis White, Dianne Simpson, Cindy Dion and Kathi O'Hara.

(Continued on Page 17)



**LUCIO CRISTIANI** and family are enroute for Europe (Sweden, London and West Berlin) booked for dates there by Bauer-Hall Enterprises and Roberto Germain of Nael Gay Artist, London.

**BOB COWEN** reports that show folks are always welcome at the Sunset Trailer Park, 8000 Edison Avenue NE, Louisville, Ohio 44641.

**KEN BENSON**, who spent the past summer with the No. 2 unit of Carson & Barnes, is working at the La. Purchase Gardens and Zoo in Monroe, La. for the winter season.

**MIKE MARTIN**, magic/illusions, worked a series of Halloween dates with his "Dr. Franklin's House of Horror" show, for producer **RAY WINDER**. Later Mike plays dates with his "Holiday Cavalcade" show.

**MARGO ST. JAMES**, a candidate for President on the Republican ticket, made her entrance at the big "Hookers Ball" in San Francisco astride an elephant.

**LUIZ POSO**, high wire walker who fell during a performance in Boston last month, suffered fractures of both heels and his lower spine. His fall was broken by **SAL CONDITO** who was on the ground beneath the act at the time.

## Billy Barton (Continued)

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**REMARK OF THE MONTH** (courtesy of April Fossett) How old would you be if you didn't know how old you were? Now that's one hell of a thought!

See you down the road, luvs.

**VICTOR** and **LINDA FLORES** are currently operating a two ring tent circus under the name "Vic Bros. Circus," which is playing in the south. The show is moving on 5 trucks and 5 Wells Cargo trailers, plus one semi and is booked by Linda and Victor Flores.

The midway includes a side show, snake show, novelty trailer and concession trailer. The concessions are operated by Carmen Loter.

The circus program, with Hasso Wuerstin, ringmaster, features: Victor Flores, cloud swing; Bill Loter and Charlee Shaw, clowns in the Hot Dog gag; Linda Flores, swinging ladder; Victor Flores, mixed animal group (dog, llama, pony); David Low, slackwire; the Color Book Pitch; Hasso Wuerstin, magic; Clowns and the Balloon; Linda Flores, ponies; Mike Maglaras, rola bola; Clowns and the Washer woman; David Low, juggling; Linda Flores, white poodles; Victor Flores, high wire.

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### ICE SHOW REVIEW (Continued)

The staff consists of: Jim Nordmark, producer; Joe Eddie, Jr., company manager; Bobby Denard, choreographer; Ninette Parker, costume design; J. R. Whyte, set designer; Keith Killinger, musical arranger; David Epperly, musical director; Patti Couls, stage manager; John Riley, concessions; David Upton, electrician; Bill Caughhill, properties; Robert Sinclair, lighting (plus a new female lighting director whose name I missed). Advertising is handled by Lee Donoghue, publicity by Leigh Standing and Ron Morris is in charge of special promotion.

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Last month Rickie Haynie, of Tallassee, Ala., bought a lion from a Florida Zoo, which he planned to mate with his pet male lion. The cubs, he said, could be sold to circuses.

Now both of Haynie's lions and his wife are dead. She was fatally mauled and the lions were shot by local police.

Officials say that a galvanized steel clasp that bound a chain to the lion's collar was "not adequate at all" for an animal of that size. The chain, they added was "more than adequate."

The lioness apparently broke the clasp when she lunged for Margaret Haynie as she walked past the animal's shelter. The lion killed her and dragged her body into the wooded area about 25 to 30 feet from the house.

Haynie, a machinist who works nights, told police he last saw his wife when he went to bed in the morning. When he awoke about noon he found the lion standing over her body.

When he was unable to scare the lion away he called police. They arrived at the scene, then shot and killed both animals.

# Random Ramblings

by ART "Doc" MILLER

Back in the dreary money-less thirties, show business was in a deplorable shape. Famous large railroad carnivals often crawled and staggered from town to town, with the railroads often hauling the shows' paint-faded decrepit cars to the next town on the cuff, for they too were hurting for business.

Into Jackson, Mich., rolled one of these battered limping aggravations - Captain Jack Sheesley's Giant Midway. This addition to the city raised little or no interest until the show brazenly advertised in the local papers that on Thursday night they would give

away, to some lucky ticket holder, a live baby. Adoption papers would be provided, to the winner upon proof of moral and financial standing.

If ever a town went wild with anger, it was staid ol' Jackson. The clergy contacted the city fathers, the newspapers, and the police, demanding the unfeeling culprits be jailed without mercy. As the week progressed feelings ran high, and everywhere could be heard mutterings of lynchings, and even tar and feather punishment.

On Thursday night the midway was jammed perhaps the largest mob to ever grace the show lot. The clergy, flanked by city fathers, State and local police vied for strategic positions around the grounds, while grim faced do-gooders, on their first trip ever to a carnival, carried clubs and sticks, fully prepared to personally to make mince meat of the scoundrels.

At exactly ten o'clock that night, a drum was heard in front of the ornate girl show, and a leather-lunged showman yelled they were ready to pick the lucky winner of the baby. The crowd surged forward, with weaker souls pushed aside, even trampled on - a solid mass of angry folks eager to wreck vengeance on the show.

The announcer called out a number and immediately some one yelled, "Hey! thats me!" and grudgingly the scornful crowd allowed him to squeeze through and walk up onto the platform. After being quizzed as to his financial standing, he was presented with adoption papers.

Then from the arched entrance to the side show appeared a thin, poorly clad young girl carrying a blanket. Walking ever so slowly across the platform, she peered lovingly down at her bundle, whispered soothingly, then brushing tears from her eyes, she handed it to the winner. He gingerly took the blanket and opening it up wider, gasped as out sprang a lively squealing five weeks old piglet.

The reaction of the crowd was varied, most folks grinned and laughed, others were furious, but to this very day, certain old residents of Jackson who would not be caught dead on a midway, will solemnly tell, with many embellishments, about the time a show visited Jackson and gave away a poor innocent baby.

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**THRILL SHOW PLANS (Continued)**

"We have reworked the design and have been practicing with it ever since," Siros added, "and we have a skilled rider now who is capable of completing the Loop." Siros also plans to book it extensively in the U.S. during the coming summer.

Resurrected for the "Evel Knievel Thrill Spectacular" Australian tour is the "Rocket Car." There are 5 rocket cars in the world today, and we have the tallest and flashiest for our show, says Lawrence. "It is the original 'Rizzini Rocket Car' now owned by veteran circus producer Bob Atterbury, of San Antonio, Texas.

Other American acts signed for the 9 week tour include: The Danger Angels, an all girl Hollywood Motorcycle Stunt team featuring: Sue Fish, Madeleine Almeida and Dawn Grant; "Fearless Bob's" Starcycle and Lion Cage Jump; Rex Young's Comedy Cannon

Car; David "Suicide" Siros' automobile stunts and crashes, Carol Cranston, of Austin, Texas and London who will do free falls into an air bag after falling 60 feet from a hot air balloon gondola.

Don Woods, of Rochester, N.Y., will serve as announcer and G. "Buster" Gunter will be the performance director and in charge of constructing props for the show.

"Our featured closing aerial act is Dave Merrifield's Helicopter Trapeze, providing we can get all the details worked out with the Australian aviation authorities," said Lawrence. "They are very particular about whom they let fly helicopters down there, and when we told them the act featured a man hanging from a trapeze underneath the helicopter, they got a little nervous. But I am confident the Edgley people will get it worked out."

Stunt coordinator Ian Jamieson of South Australia will head up the Australian contingent that includes 17 year old motorcycle jumper Dale Buggins. The Bauers swaypole and motorcycle trapeze will represent Denmark in the international cast. Several other acts are being negotiated with at the present time.

Running time for the show will be a little over 2 hours. The show will play approximately 5 cities a week. The show will move on 4 semis, 2 buses and several automobiles. Performers will be flown by jet on long jumps, including the hop to the island state of Tasmania, off the southern coast.

Opening date is Feb. 21st at Orange, N.S.W., 100 miles south of Sydney. The show closes April 21st at Brisbane.

All dates will be outdoors at Showgrounds, Motorcycle and Horse race tracks. The show will be completely self-contained, including its own lighting and sound system.

Lawrence noted that Knievel had expressed an interest in a similar tour of leading North American fairs in 1979. Negotiations are currently underway with several fairs for a stateside tour.

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