



5th Year

September 13, 1976

Number 37

## Lost Snake Is Found

Residents of Eldora and Tama (Iowa) are breathing a bit easier now that they know a 23 foot python has been found and returned to its owners. The big 200 lb. snake was a feature of the Dailey Bros. Circus when it played Eldora (Aug. 26), but it was reported missing when they arrived in Tama (Aug. 27).

### All New Show

A new circus was seen at the border town of Juarez, Mexico, last month, just across from El Paso. The show called "Circo Bargas" played there for ten days  
(Continued on Page 14)

Circus officials said the snake arrived in this country from India about three months ago and was valued at \$2500. They told authorities the snake was dangerous and offered a \$200 reward to whoever found it.

(Continued on Page 13)

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# PEOPLE

BOB WELZ, juggler, is currently on tour in Europe with "Moiria Orfeo Circo Sul Ghiaccio"

MARVIN GABEL and PAUL HOY, CFA's, visited Mid-America Circus at Sioux Falls (S.D.) and were shown every courtesy by BOB TRIPPE, owner and MEL SILVERLAKE.

YARO and BETTY HOFFMAN, of The Juggling Hoffmans, are now working concession units on Royal American and Mighty Blue Grass shows.

SUE and AL DAWLEY recently visited the Old Chicago Mall and report "its a great show they have there."

THE RONRITAS (Joachim, Betty, Jackeline and Heidi) and DAVE BURNHAM, introduced their Boxing Kangaroo act to the public at Circus Circus Casino in Las Vegas in August.

## AVAILABLE

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Show Organist

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## In Memoriam

FLOYD KING (88) circus owner and general agent, died at Macon, Ga. on Aug. 24th. He had been ill for a long time. He started show business as a press agent in 1918 and a few years later was operating his own shows, with his brother, Howard. For several years he owned King Bros. and in later years worked for the Beatty-Cole organization. His last job was as an advisor for the James H. Drew Shows.

JOHN HANSON and Family (Les Thisis and Miss Tina) will join the Royal Danish Circus for its Sept. 28-Oct. 2 date at the Cumberland (Me.) Fair. The show was booked in by the Cogert Collier Agency.

SIMONA, trapeze star at the Circus Circus Casino in Las Vegas and her father ANDRE PRINCE, were injured in a boat accident last month. Andre was hospitalized and Simona suffered a cracked neck bone.

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# ROUTES

## Beatty-Cole Circus

Sep. 13 Mendota, Ill.  
14 Bloomington  
15 Peoria  
16 Taylorsville

## Circus Vargas

Sep 11-16 Manhattan, N.Y.  
17 Danbury, Conn.  
18-22 Massapequa, L.I.

## Happytime Circus

Sep 16-19 Newark, Calif.

## Hella Shrine Circus

Sep 13-19 Dallas, Texas

## King Bros. Circus

Sep. 13 Jackson, Ky.  
14 Salyersville  
15 Corbin  
16 Pineville  
17 Middlesboro  
18 LaFollette, Tenn  
19 Lenoir City

## Hoxie Bros. Circus

Sept. 13 Avenel, N.J.  
14 Old Bridge  
15 Summit  
16 No. Plainfield  
17 Linden  
18 Maplewood  
19 Irvington

## Int'l All Star Circus

Sept. 15 Howard County, Md  
16 Manassas, Va.  
17 Charlottesville  
18 Front Royal  
19 Aberdeen, Md.

## Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

Sep 15-19 Seattle, Wash.

## Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

Sep 14-19 Indianapolis, Ind

## Royal Int'l Circus

Sep 16-19 W.Springfield,  
Mass

## Royal Hanneford Circus

Sep 18-19 Elkhart, Ind.

## Sells & Gray Circus

Sep 13 Knox, Ind.  
14 Rensselaer  
15 Paxton, Ill.  
16 Lincoln  
17 Paris  
18 Clinton  
19 Rockville, Ind.

## TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

Sep 15-19 Overland Park,  
Kans.

## .... OTHER ROUTES .....

## Carnival of Brazil

to Sep 19 Detroit, Mich

## Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit

Sep 13-18 Jasper, Ala.

## Century 21 Shows - Red Unit

Sep 13-18 Jackson, Tenn

## James H. Drew Shows

Sep 13-18 Carrollton, Ga.

## Ken Griffin (Magic)

Sep 13 Asheville, N.C.  
14 Kingsport, Tenn  
16 Somerset, Ky.  
17 Bowling Green  
18 Casey, Ill.

## Prof. Miller & Co. (Magic)

Sep. 13 Port-Aux-Basques,  
15 Sidney, NS Nfld  
16 New Glasgow  
17 Truro  
18 Amhurst  
19 Moncton, N.B.

## Mitchell Marionettes

to Sep 19 London, Ont.

## Rose City Rides

Sep 13-18 Ironton, Mo.

## Royal Lipizzan Stallions

Sep 17 Hershey, Pa.  
18-19 Uniondale, N.Y.

## Tip Top Shows

Sep 15-19 Viroqua, Wisc.

## 40 Horse Hitch

Sep 13-19 Lake Crystal,  
Minn.



## BILLY BARTON....

THE ODDS ARE GREAT that a well-known medium sized tent show may not go out in '77. The problems suffered by the show during the past two seasons have taken their toll and a miracle is needed to get it back on its feet.

1976 has been one of the worst circus years within recent memory. Thus far 10 shows have folded - the most that can be counted since the catastrophic circus season of 1938!

What about 1977? A good question. Shows with established routes, such as Hoxie, the Beatty Cole combine, and others, if the political climate is favorable to the economy, should enjoy a prosperous tour. At least two major new tenters will be on the scene and could quite possibly pincer some of the current big-tenters, cut into their grosses and checkmate their routes. I predict that acquiring route listings for CR in '77 ain't gonna be easy.

Canadian visitors inform me that the heat generated in Toronto over promotional activities has not cooled down one degree. Moreover, MIKE WALLACE is airing a segment exposing phone promotions, and other promos of ALL types, on his CBS program "60 Minutes." It looks as if phone promos are on their way out, and a return to the old days seems imminent with Billposters, good General Agents, and well-armed Advance Crews coming back into

their own. Only the most ingenious showman will be able to navigate the hazards of the seasons that lie ahead.

THE LAST STRAW: First the sign he built so painstakingly was run over and demolished. Then on a huge parking lot, the G-M pole wagon ran into and smashed the rear of ED RUSSELL's house trailer. The very next day the water wagon backed into his carry all.!

GUESSING GAMES: Two trucks on an RBBB unit are emblazoned with the title AL G. BARNES, and one tractor has HAGENBECK-WALLACE while one has SELLS-FLOTO titles. Do you suppose the FINAL title will be: Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey presents Al G. Barnes, Sells-Floto, Hagenbeck-Wallace combined with John Robinson-Spark

Heard the Togni Bros. pulled out of Peru, that the Government stepped in and most of the U. S. acts came home....THE EAST-WOODS are retiring CHONA's wire act in '77, coming out with a 4 person bicycle act. They will repeat their HOLIDAY HIPPODROME tour next season. Chona adopted her brother's 2½ year old daughter while in Mexico.

Veteran clown HARRY ROSS, 71, is a better stake driver than most teenagers. Diddyknow that Harry once did a slide for life standing on his hands? It's true. This marvelous trouper also ap-

(Continued on Page 12)

# THAT NEW FILM

As reported earlier the new circus film "Those Amazing Dobermans" produced by Rosamond Productions, was wrapped up in Southern California late last month. The tentative release date has been set for November 19th.

Stars of the film are James Franciscus, Barbara Eden, Fred Astaire, Jack Carter, Parley Baer and Billy Barty. The film was produced by David Chudman, with his son Byron serving as its director. Bob Yerkes was both Technical Director and Stunt Coordinator and also had a small bit part, as one of the "hoods."

The Simi Valley High School Band provided music for the circus and many students worked as vendors. Circus acts in the film include: Ada Smieya and her tigers; Ben DeWayne and the Polack elephants; Gene Mendez, high wire The Young Troupe, teeterboard/trampoline; Mark Smith's Horse Act, and aerialists Ruth Hill, Allison Klockman, and Beth and Diana Nufer. Clowns included Tim Hill, Ben DeWayne and Mark Yerkes

## Send Cards

Western performer Frank Dean was injured while performing with the Happytime Circus at the California State Fair on Aug. 30th. He suffered a broken right leg and will be hospitalized for six weeks or more.

Write him at: Frank Dean, Mercy General Hospital, 4001 "J" Street, Sacramento, Calif. 95819. (Room 350-A).

## Show Features

The Continental Circus, produced for the Berrien Springs, Michigan Fair (and other dates) on Aug. 17th, by Klein's Attractions featured:

Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghans; Stanek Troupe, pole act; Zoppe, unsupported ladders; Harriet Beatty, lions; Stanek Troupe teeterboard; Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Revue; Lee and Jeanette Keener with the Diano elephants; Princess Sonja's Indian aerial act and clowns Kenny Milton and Lolly, the Clown, who also handled the announcements.

..... Kaye Scheiman

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Fair" for May 29th, of England, for  
the following press notice....

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I discovered a Folies Bergere revue.....French  
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## PEOPLE

STEVE BAKER and GARY RAY, clowns, presented their "Magic Dog House" illusion for the first time during the Rockford Shrine dates. WAYNE BOLZ visited Beatty-Cole at Appleton (Wisc) on Aug. 29th and says "it is an excellent and fast moving show."

### In Memoriam

MIKE KOSTIAL, chimp trainer at the St. Louis Zoo for 30 years died Aug. 28th. He was the son of a former circus lion trainer from Czechoslovakia who had the first lion act at the zoo in 1931. Survivors include his wife, Virginia and sons Michael and Dennis.

## A Big Week

One of the better town festivals in the mid-west is the "Kewanaw Harvest Festival" produced by Francis Sanders at Kewanaw, Ind., on Aug. 11-14. The town has a population of 683, but draws big crowds

The four day event has numerous daily activities, plus a big parade of some 500 units, with Bobby Joe Mason, star of the Globe Trotters, as grand marshall

Circus acts working the engagement were: Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Dog Act; Hunkie Johnson's Bears; Johnny Laddie, Unsupported Ladders; Carmen del Molino, wire act and Florine Oler, organist. ...Kaye Scheiman

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# MARK ANTHONY



**Something New  
in  
DOGS**

# TNT Show

The TNT & Royal Olympic Circus played the Southwyck Shopping Mall in Toledo on Aug. 25-29. The shows were scheduled at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesday thru Saturday and at 1 and 4 pm on Sunday. The past paced show runs 30 minutes and was presented under a large dome inside the mall. Good crowds attended all shows.

Earl Tegge is the owner/announcer; his son Tim doubles as clown and drummer and Lynette Phillip is the organist. The program included: Overture and introduction of "Mr. Circus" (Tegge); The Sherry's, globe balancing; Program/Color Book pitch; Jose Cole, one finger stand/balancing; Clown Break, and The Torreanis, tight wire.

The coloring book/program is the finest this reporter has ever seen. It contains five pages to be colored and the program section includes pictures of the acts, biographies of Earl and Tim Tegge, a full page map and explanation of circus routing, stories about clowning, circus music and a full page devoted to the history and activities of the CFA. Designed by Tim Tegge, the book sells for 50¢.

Tegge told this reporter that all 19 weeks of the show's shopping mall dates have been re-signed for 1977. Tegge handles all contracting and promotion from his Chicago office. However, he

# Show Program

The program currently being presented by the Holiday Hippodrome show features:

The Bradbury Family, illusions/magic; The Eastwood Family, wire/juggling/rola bola/Gorilla parody; The Chris Albertis, rolling globe/plate spinning; Angela Wilnow, performing collies. Floyd Bradbury is manager, MC and also along with his daughter Sherri provides the music

said, he hopes to move the show's offices to Orange County, Calif., in the near future.

The show moved to Toledo from Omaha, will have one week off and then reopens in Colorado Springs. Following the mall dates Tegge will operate one of John Strong's Christmas shows during the holiday season. Before going into the mall dates next season he will put out a small show to play schools and private parties in the Chicago area.

Tegge said his mall dates have been successful because the fast paced show features top acts and is capable of drawing people into the shopping centers. The 30 minute program releases the people in time for them to patronize the center's merchants. He said the Southwyck merchants were so enthusiastic over this year's show that they signed it for next year following the opening performance on the first day.

.....Tom Morrison

## G-M's Visit

For its Springdale (Ohio) Aug. 11-17 engagement, the George Matthews Circus was set-up at the Princeton Plaza Shopping Center. The show day-and-dated the Hamilton County Fair which obviously cut into the circus attendance. The lay-out included the big top, drink stand, Moon Walk, and ticket wagon. A souvenir stand was set-up just inside the front door.

The show was presented in one ring and moves smoothly, despite a lot of dialogue between ringmaster Ed Russell and Timmy Bickmore, supposedly a towner looking for a job. The program is backed by a 5 piece band - trumpet, 2 saxes, bass horn and drums.

An ample amount of advertising was used throughout the area consisting of newspaper ads and pictorial lithos. Show prices were: adults \$4.00; Juniors \$3.00 and children \$2.50.

The program included: Inge Williams, dogs (10); Lu Ann Jacobs, single trap; The Wal-Tims, risley; Rossy and Zippo, clowns taking pictures; Inga Williams, juggling; Clowns, Dr. Ben Crazy; Uncle Heavy's Pork Chop Revue; The Great Huberto, slide for life; Candy Pitch; Los Latinos, tight wire; Clowns, Chicken cannon; Alfonso Magana, elephants; Clowns, Disappearing Box; Tim Bickmore, unicycle/rola bola/juggling; Prince Najvez, aerialist.

Owner/manager of the show

## Fair Date

The Circus at the Illinois State Fair (Aug. 12-27) was produced by L. N. Fleckles and drew good crowds for every show.

The program featured: Zavattas, unsupported ladders; Martin Lamberti, Jr., juggling; Guy Gosling, tigers; Randy & Sylvia, vertical perch; Tibor Alexander's dogs; Lodi Duo, aerial cradle; Lamberti, Jr. one finger stand; Announcements and color book sale Herman & Petunia, comedy riding; Clowns, hot dogs; Cristiani's elephants with Karen and Larry French; Clowns, the Dentist; Hernandez Troupe, teeterboard; The Flying Lar-Rays and Zoppe's Arabian Riders.

Ron Kelroy was the show manager; Al Youngman directed the band and Al Dawley served as ring master. Clowns were Koko Spaeth, Vada Spaeth and Mestaffo.

Visitors at the show included: Gunner Amandis, Denise Olneo and son; Pamela Rosaire; Tim Cooney (St. Louis Zoo); Hans Duble and Norman Schuler.

.. Allen Babcock

## Miscellaneous

The Cleveland (Ohio) Arena is scheduled for demolition next month. The building was built 40 years ago.

is Sid Kellner, while Matt Kellner is contracting agent. Clown Alley included: Harry Ross, Mary Wise and Zippo. ... Don Sandman

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

peared with the ROSE KILLIAN circus and with MIGHTY HAAG. Any circus historian would do well to interview Harry....C. J. MACHETT has made a rapid recovery from his stroke and has been out fishing. HERBIE WEBER will make the New Orleans Shrine date for Royal Hanneford. Tommy wants to repeat the cross-over walk of the WINNS with Herbie ascending his slide rope under them which was such a hit in Cincinnati....INGE WILLIAMSON, with Sells & Gray, made a hurried trip to visit his mother when the Williams played a shopping plaza in York (Pa) recently. Inge and her husband are now back with the G-M show.

HOXIE's GREAT AMERICAN was at the West Virginia State Fair for 3 days, also had two turn-aways in a town called Mt. Jackson (Pa). Population a giant 200! .....BEATTY-COLE has nixed a Texas tour....CARSON & BARNES car-

ries two wreckers with the show, plus a truck load of piggy-backed trucks from which the mechanics cannibalize parts.

Roberts Bros. Circus was reportedly playing the eastern Ohio area last month.

To those who have inquired, my mother MARGUERITTE BARTON, who suffered a slight stroke Aug 18, is back at our Penna. home and beating everybody at Pinnacle. Her recovery is total.

Writing so much as I have this season about tent shows I am reminded that credit must be given to one man for revitalizing the tent show industry - CLIFFORD VARGAS. Funster DENNIS STEVENS, romping with Beatty-Cole, advises that he can't possibly dish me the dirt from that show as such stories would burn up the pages. Try me, Dennis! This column is fireproofed each week prior to publication!

See you down the road, luvs.

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## Show Date

Bauer's Int'l Circus appeared at the Michigan State Fair on Aug. 27-Sept. 6 as a free attraction. Coco and Bruce-O, stilt walkers, toured the grounds prior to each performance which opened with an overture by Coco and his Musical Clowns.

Included in the program were The Reginine Duo, cradle; Randy & Sylvia, ground perch; Bruce-O, dancing on stilts; Ron Kelroy, rola bola; Cristiani's elephants, presented by Karen and Larry French; Bruce-O, clown water gag; Reynosa Bros., Pirates of the Sky; Hernandez Troupe, teeterboard; The Flying Armors.

Also featured in front of the fair's grandstand was Joe Gerlach's Daredevil Show.

.....George DaDeppo

## LOST SNAKE (Continued)

A hasty search of the show grounds, an adjacent city park, cemetery and residential area failed to locate the snake. There was no panic, said a policeman, but citizens were warned and told to be careful and alert.

On Saturday (Aug. 28), Rick Dunn, a high school student, discovered the snake in a treet, quietly surveyings its surroundings at the cemetery. Police were called to stand by and keep an eye on the snake until circus folks arrived to take it away. Once the snake was placed in a box it was rushed off to rejoin the circus which was appearing that night at Sigourney.

## Acts Named

Acts presented daily at the Simpson's Animal Park in Brunswick (Me.) this summer were:

Lauppe's bears; Simpson's leopards, presented by Hugo Marquardt and Gus & Ursula, juggling

## THE SIDE SHOW

Appearing in the Side Show on the Sells & Gray Circus are: Billy and Betty Earl, blade box; Mike and Patti Wudtke, knife throwing; Punch & Judy and bayonet swallowing by Henry Thompson, who is the show's manager.

The show also features six cages of animals and the two elephants, Topsy and Bessie.

..... Jon Friday

## In Memoriam

JOHN W. KERSLAKE, an active CFA and charter member of the Fred Buchanan Top #35, of South Dakota, died after a brief illness last month. He was also a past president of the South Dakota Circus Fans Association.

## Collectors Items

Assorted Material from the Great James M. Cole Circus - 1946 Season.

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**A NEW ONE**

Having recently completed its first season (15 weeks) Pucks Canadian Travelling Circus is now looking forward to the coming year. In fact, Frazier Mohawk, told CR that the major portion of our 1977 season has been already set and we will be out 18 to 22 weeks.

The circus program is presented under a 60x90 ft gold and white tent, using a one ring format. A two piece band backs the show. Appearing with the circus this year were: Von Donwen seals; Les Weldens, single trapeze; Sir Stanley Wood, ponies; The Hager Family, tumbling; Ken Sherburne, juggling/unicycle; The Great Di-ion, illusions; Baby Bombay, elephant and Rent-a-Fool Clowns.

Acts interested in the 1977 tour could write: Frazier Mohawk, 27 Prince Arthur Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

**NEW MEXICAN SHOW (Continued)**

and drew good crowds throughout the run.

Local observers said the show is presented in an orange and white tent, one ring, which seats about 4,000 people. About 20 show trucks and trailers were on the lot and all carried the show's title on the sides. A medium sized menagerie is carried with a good variety of animals.

The program included: lions (6); flying act; single trapeze; pony drill; elephants (6); bare back riding act; trained hippo with saddle; aerial motorcycle; inclined wire walk; slide for life and two production numbers. They also had about 8 clowns who did four numbers.

The 14 piece band sits up over the back door and provides good music. The sound system, it was reported, was blarry and the lighting was weak.

COL. E. T. BALE

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## R-B's Red Unit

RBBB's Red Unit, now in its second and final year with the Spectacular Bicentennial edition, did very well during its recent engagement in Salt Lake City. It has also been reported that the show did well during its swing through Texas.

This year the show is rolling on 36 cars and a former Blue Unit elephant car (originally a N.Y. Central Baggage car) has replaced Car #500 which was destroyed in New York (see CR for June 21, 1976). This car does not have the show title on it, but has a red globe decal and the number 60 stenciled in black.

## Miscellaneous

Beck's Circorama is set to open in the South on Sept. 24th.

The train consists of 7 flat cars #20-24 and #28-29; 1 duo-level car #25; 2 tunnel cars #26-27; 4 stock cars #30-33; 2 baggage cars #59-60 and 20 coach cars #40-58, plus the replacement car. Baggage car #59 is the repair shop and a former concession car.

A concession supply van was at the show in Salt Lake City, it has a colorful painting of the polar bear act on each side and the tractor carries the title "Sells Floto, Inc."

...Mike Sporrer



"I still think you're a great clown, you're just no fun anymore."