



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

Volume 3

January 14, 1974

Number 2

## shows get ready

Three shows - Beatty-Cole, King Bros. and Sells & Gray - are wintering at De Land Fla. A considerable amount of work, painting and practice is underway at the show quarters in preparation for the 1974 tour.

Both King Bros. and Sells & Gray will open their new tour on March 9th, in Florida. The Beatty-Cole Circus will start its tour at Commack, L.I., N.Y. on Apr. 6th

## SHOW OPENS

The new Circus Vargas opens this week (Jan. 17) at Arlington, Texas, on a tour that is expected to last some 50 weeks. The show is scheduled to move east into Florida before heading towards its west coast dates.

Featured on the new show will be two wild animal acts -- Pat Anthony and Harry Thomas. A number of other animal acts such as liberty horses and elephants will also be featured in the show program.

## A ROUGH ROAD

Faced with the prospect of having to make a \$32 million interest payment in April, Mattel Inc., must wait until next month before the proposed sale of Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey will be confirmed. Mattel has signed a letter of intent to sell and is awaiting action by the board of directors of an un-named "industrial corporation" who will meet in February.



Because of heavy losses over the past few years Mattel has found itself in financial difficulties. A long-term loan from Wells Fargo Bank is in excess of \$100 million. As a result the company has sold some of its subsidiaries and is now endeavoring to dispose of the circus as well as its Audio Magnetic Corp and Turco Co.

The money realized from these sales, it is hoped, will keep the company solvent and in operation. One official told Circus Report (Continued on Page 3)

# PEOPLE

**JIMMY CHAMBERS** is now working a western act, using an Indian blow gun, knives and gun spinning. He recently visited the Clyde Bros. Circus.

**FRANK DEAN** has an article in the Jan. 1974 issue of "Western Horseman" magazine. His books and writings keep him busy when he and his wife **BERNICE** are not working on show dates. The January story is about the famed roping Chinacos of Mexico during the mid-1800's. The cover is a painting of a Chiacos by famed artist Meladio Velarde.

**PAUL WESSLER** was visiting in the San Francisco, Cal. Bay Area this past week.

**BOB MacDOUGALL** and wife caught the Ringling-Barnum show's opening at Venice, Fla. early this month.

**JIM RHINEHART**, juggler, was on the Merv Griffith TV Show on Jan. 7. as a special guest.

**THE GRIMALDI's** will be touring with Polack Bros. Circus this coming season.

**HARRY CHIPMAN** and wife plan to view the annual Circus Parade at Milwaukee, Wisc. on July 4th.

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# the CFA CIRCUS

An unconfirmed report circulating last week indicated the new Lewis Bros. Circus, a Hoxie Tucker and John Lewis operation, will be the 1974 CFA Convention circus.

Featured on the new show will be Bobby Gibbs, who will be busy presenting several acts on the circus. Among the acts planned are a 6 pony drill, 6 white german shepherds, three elephants, 6 liberty miniature mules, camels, llamas and monkeys. Miss Rosa will offer her iron jaw and aerial routines. Bobby also plans to operate three concessions -- an elephant ride, Moon Walk and pit show called "the Thing."

## Unions To Merge

The nation's two largest performer unions are discussing plans for a merger. Officials of both unions -- Chester L. Migden, of Screen Actor's Guild and Sanford I. Wolff, of American Federation of Television & Radio Artists -- said last week the unions were "in the preliminary stages of a possible merger."

Committees have been appointed by both unions to study a possible merger. In many cases individuals belong to both unions.

"These groups will first meet internally in preliminary sessions and formulate ideas for mutual consideration," a joint statement said.

# notes

One of the prize winning floats in the Rose Parade (Pasadena, Cal) on Jan. 1, 1974 was a 50 ft. replica of clown Emmett Kelly.

The Beatty-Cole Circus is advertising for a promoter to start work immediately.

Several small shows have indicated they may go into New England this year.

A recent "Untouchables" TV show had a small circus working on the Canadian border which was helping to smuggle aliens into the US.

The Hubert Castle Circus will reportedly be playing in Los Angeles, Calif. in March.



A ROUGH ROAD (Continued)....

last week that the firm hopes to turn its full attention back to the manufacturer and marketing of toys, Mattel's real business.

The Ringling-Barnum Circus was first sold to Irving Feld and his associates for \$8 million. They in turn sold the show to Mattel for more than \$40 million, with Feld to continue as president and producer of the circus. Mr. Feld's contract was for ten years, with an option for an additional ten years. He has reportedly agreed to a payoff of that contract and will now have to negotiate a new contract with the upcoming owners.

## Business up for HOXIE TOUR

Attendance was good at every stand for Hoxie Bros. Circus during its December run in Florida, show officials report. Highlight of the nine day tour, booked by Mearl Johnson, was the Sarasota performances, both filled to capacity, with many R888 people attending.

It has been reported that Hoxie Tucker recently purchased a camel, two lions, horses and ponies for the coming year. An African elephant has also been added to the show, giving them a herd of 11 elephants.



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Do it today so you can start getting CIRCUS

REPORT right away - you'll be glad you did.

Send \$10.00 in cash, check or money order to: Don Marcks, 525 Oak St. El Cerrito, Calif. 94530

## Attention

Effective this week the pictorial circus magazine "Southern Sawdust" has a new address.

Henceforth all mail to the magazine or its editor, L. Wilson Poarch, Jr., should be addressed: 2965 Freeman Ave., Sarasota, Fla. -- 33580

# ROUTES

## Circus Vargas

Jan. 17-24 Arlington, Texas

## Cole All-Star TV Circus

Jan. 14 Carlisle, Pa.

15 Turbotville

16 Berwick

17 Murray

18 Enroute

19 Halifax

## Great Moscow Circus

Jan. 19-29 Wellington, N.Z.

## Kramien's Mad World of Magic

Jan. 17 Fallon, Nev.

18 Hawthorne

19 Enroute

20 Tonapah

## Ringling-Barnum Circus

Jan. 8-13 St. Petersburg, Fla.

18-22 W. Palm Beach

## Royal Lipizzen Stallion Show

Jan. 18-20 Miami Bch, Fla.

## Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show

Jan. 20 Asheville, N.C.

## Voorheis Bros. Circus

Jan. 15 Cass City, Mich.

16 Owosso

17-18 Enroute

19 Celina, Ohio

..... OTHER ROUTES .....

## The Country Show

Jan. 19 New York, N.Y.

## Festival on Ice

to Jan. 27 New York, N.Y.

## Fiesta Folklorico

Jan. 14 Ft. Lauderdale, Fl.

15 W. Palm Beach

## Peggy Fleming Ice Show

Jan. 16-21 Sun Valley, Idaho

## Globetrotters

Jan. 19-20 Oakland, Calif.

23 Fresno

## Ice Capades

Jan. 15-20 Calgary, Alta.

## Ind. Showman's Assoc.

Jan. 18 Gibsonton, Fla.

(Meeting and Dance)

## Peter Pan Show

Jan. 15-27 Cleveland, Ohio

## Sheriff's Posse Rodeo

Jan. 19-20 Ft. Myers, Fla.

## Stock Show Rodeo

Jan. 18-21 Amarillo, Tex.

## Windjammers Convention

Jan. 18-20 Atlanta, Ga.

..... FAIR MEETINGS .....

## Georgia Fair Assoc.

Jan. 18-19 Atlanta, Ga.

## Kentucky Fair Assoc.

Jan. 17-19 Louisville, Ky

## Mid-Winter Fair

Jan. 17-20 Lafayette, La.

## Michigan Assoc. of Fairs

Jan. 17-19 Detroit, Mich.

## Penna. Fair Assoc.

Jan. 18-19 Harrisburg, Pa.

## W. Va. Fair Assoc.

Jan. 18-19 Clarksburg, W.V.



# NEW Bulletin

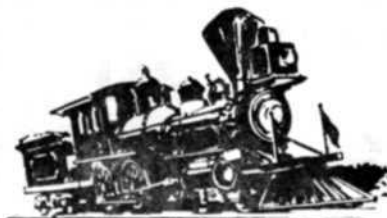
The first issue of the new quarterly newsletter for the Unicycling Society of America has just been published. The paper is edited by William Jenack and those interested in the newsletter should write him at: 67 Lion Lane, Westbury, N.Y. - 11590.

The bulletin offers details on the Jun. 30-July 1, 1973 convention at Pontiac, Mich. Information is also offered on riding and building bikes, plus a question and answer section, general news and a membership application.

## FOR SALE

Large Shopping Center Directory (covers the entire U.S.) Also have brochures and calendars that may be of interest to collectors.

For details write: Allen's Petting Zoo, Box 91, Pixley, Calif - 93256



## OFF & RUNNING

The 104th edition of Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus is now well underway after completing its first two stands. The circus opened its 1974 tour at Venice, Fla. for three days (Jan. 4-6) then moved to St. Petersburg for Jan. 8-13.



During the St. Petersburg stand the annual NBC-TV "Highlights of the Circus" special were filmed for showing on Feb. 14th. Special guest host for this year's program is Flip Wilson.

Featured in the 1974 circus program of the Blue Unit is Michu, the 33 inch midget from Hungary, and the Samel Mixed Animal Act from Eastern Germany.

The program also includes The Flying Gaones, Charly Baumann's animals, Bill Baker, an equestrian and the comic unicycle group The King Charles Troupe. The program also offers several all-new show pageants.

## Letters

Renew my subscription to Circus Report for 1974. The paper is getting better and better. Can't hardly wait until Mondays.

.... O'Lee Carlstrom

I look forward to The Circus Report every week. It gives me news that I wouldn't get otherwise.

..... H. L. Merk

## Opportunity

NOW AVAILABLE -- an 8 x 10 black-and-white group photo of the Royal Bros. Circus 1973 show personnel for just \$5.00. Early purchasers will also receive a bonus package of circus items.

Order from: Dave Knoderer, Box 255, Donna, Texas - 78537.

## finale

Harold Barrows, a long-time circus and carnival billposter, died at Chicago, Ill. on Dec. 15th.

Chet Howell, retired rodeo and circus trick and fancy rider and roper, died on Dec. 24th at Phoenix, Ariz.

Eugene Maier, a concessionaire with Ringling-Barnum and Sells & Gray, died Dec. 12th at Ferndale, Mich.

George M. Penny, whose circus career included trick riding and management, died at Miami, Fla., on Nov. 28th.



## FOR SALE

Many items of interest for collectors from the Tex Carson and early Carson & Barnes Circus. If interested write for details, etc.

HENRY HOOVER

8392 Spring Valley Road  
Dallas, Texas - 75240

## TOUR PLANS READY

The 1974 tour season for Allen's Petting Zoo and Rides will get underway on Saturday (Jan. 25) with a three day run at Palm Desert, Calif. The unit will then move into the Los Angeles area until late March, with dates at the Tucson and Yuma (Ariz) fairs set for April.

Since the show closed last Dec. 9th, Charlie Allen has been busy preparing for the upcoming tour. An all new unit this year is a specially designed 35 ft. metal trailer.

## DO YOU LIKE CIRCUS MUSIC.....

Interested in Circus  
Bandleaders - past & present ...

Want to learn more about  
composers, names of grand  
old marches, waltzes, galops  
the circus plays thru the  
Circus Windjammers .....

JOIN NOW - BEFORE DUES INCREASE

Send \$3.00 for membership  
Make checks payable to:

The Secretary  
WINDJAMMERS UNLIMITED

Contact:

Percy Turner  
Windjammers Regional Director  
1510 Grand Avenue  
San Diego, Calif. - 92109

## BILLED AS: -

## 'WORLD'S LARGEST'

Members of the Ed Millette Tent, of the CFA, will be attending the all-new Circus Vargas at Arlington, Texas, on Saturday evening, Jan. 19th. The circus will be playing on the Arlington Stadium Parking Lot from Jan. 17 to 24, for its premiere date of 1974.

The show's newspaper advertising announces the circus performances will be presented under the world's largest big top. They are featuring two wild animal acts plus a total of 150 animals, 125 performers and three herds of elephants.

Seventeen performances are scheduled for the eight day stand, with prices set at: \$2.50 for the children, \$3.50 for juniors and \$4.50 for adults.

## action line

On Dec. 31, 1973, Action Line of The Oakland, Calif. Tribune reported on some of the human interest features it had worked on for the year 1973. Included was the following:

"A one-time famous circus aerialist, dying of leukemia, wanted one last look at the Big Top in the company of her grand-daughter, but she could not walk or cope with long lines and hard seats. Through Action Line her last dream came true and the grand-daughter has a cherished memory."

## PREVIEW OPENING

A premiere tour, starting at Fallon, Nev., (Jan. 17) has been announced by Kramien's Mad World of Magic Show. The show will be playing a few weeks in the Southwestern area before embarking on its big summer tour on June 1st.



Stan Kramien reports he recently bought a true midget horse, which will be used in an illusion and for advance publicity purposes. He has also added a backdrop, a scenery system and sound equipment which will enable him to produce a big illusion show on stages, in school gyms and even outdoor stadiums.

## show program

The following program is presented here for the interest of our readers. It is the show presented at Newcastle, (Australia) by Circus Circus in mid-1973. The show lineup is slightly different than that reported here on Sept. 10, 1973.

Mrs. Phyllis Ashton - welcome  
 Grand Parade - stage and ring  
 Miss Susan, Miss Beverley, Miss Marilyn - aerial numbers  
 Los Tonaris - balancing  
 Miss Lorraine Ashton - pony  
 Miss Ashton - 4 liberty horses  
 Jan Ashton - equestrienne  
 The Clowns - comedy car  
 Circus Royal's trained camels  
 The Rolling Grants  
 Clowns - sword gag

(Continued on Page 11)

## guest talent is named

The star of 70 western films -- "Sunset" Carson -- will join the Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show on April 1st at Seneca, N.C., for a month's tour. Carson will replace Col. Tim McCoy who is taking a month off for an around-the-world cruise. He has been with the show for eleven years and this will be his first vacation in that time.

While touring with the show Carson will present his trick shooting routines, includes shooting cigarettes from the mouth of an assistant. He will also do a Wm. Tell act, shooting an apple off the head of his assistant.



The combination Fun and Wild West Show has been produced for many years by Tommy Scott, who started his show career as a guitarist with a medicine show and later worked as a ventriloquist. The show plans from January until late November, covering most of the U.S., with some dates in Canada and Mexico.

## WANTED

Items on Russell Bros. Circus. Want photos, route cards, programs and other items of all sorts. Send letter with details and your prices to: Paul Wessler, 48 Fortuna Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

# rated fantastic

The merger of Australia's Ashton and Royal circuses for 1973 dates was greeted with enthusiastic response by the public and critics alike. Business at Newcastle was so good the one week stand had to be extended for a month, something almost unheard of.

The circus used a one ring, European style round top. Admission to the circus ranged from \$2.00 to \$5.00. The performance was presented on the hippodrome track, the ring, in the air and on a stage. This latter facility was provided by means of a low bed truck, whose sides folded out to create a square stage area.



The lion act used a rope net arena which folded into the ring curb. The animals - 3 male and 3 female - entered from a tunnel cage, the first such used in Australia.

The following comments were taken from a review written by Geoff Greaves.....

"The program opens with Mrs. Phyllis Ashton, in a gorgeous evening gown, making an announcement under a spotlight, about how Ashton's Circus grew from its initial performance in Sydney in the early 1800's, to its present size. The closing words go something like this: "...Ashton's, Australia's oldest circus, combines with Circus Royal, the nation's newest,

## POLACK BROS CIRCUS

Was able to catch Polack Bros. during their date at South Bend, Ind., writes Jim Brock and they had a nice show. This was their last 1973 stand and I didn't mean to take so long getting the news to you.

The program, reports Brock, included the following:

- Zamperla - seven lions
- Miss Francesca - single trapeze
- Pete & Petrova - aerial cradle
- The Great Segura - bounding rope
- Baby Mike - a young elephant
- The Clowns - strongman stunt
- Rodger's Bird Fantasy
- The Zamperlas - bareback riding
- Intermission --
- The Luvas - perch pole act
- Miss Antoinette - foot juggler
- The Naughtin's beers
- Don Nothdorft - illusions
- Arturo Trosti - single trapeze
- Tom Donoho - Polack's elephants
- Capt. Orbit - motorcycle ride
- The Flying Gibsons - trapeze act

to present you this....."

"At this moment, every light in the big top explodes into brilliance, the band strikes up, the stage and ring curtains part, and a colorful spectacle unfolds. The performers in their gleaming costumes enter the ring from the stage to parade in a circle, while the animals make a circuit of the hippodrome track. It's a dazzling sight which attunes the heart for the excitement to follow."

# HAPPYTIME

## DOG AND PONY

# CIRCUS

## DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT !



CONTRARY TO THE CURRENT RUMOR -- HAPPYTIME CIRCUS DID NOT BUY  
RINGLING BROS. and BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS

We have, however, updated, improved and enlarged our show for the  
coming season and have many surprises in store.

Please stop by and say Hello when we are in your area.

1973 was the greatest year for "Happytime Circus" since its start  
in '66. At this time we wish to thank all the wonderful people  
who helped make '73 another winner:

THE WENDANY FAMILY

HEIDI WENDANY

THE BAKERS

DALE LORZO

BENITA LYNN

PETE "Charlie" CAMP

BETTE KAYE

BILL SANDLIN

MIKE CARATTE

DELORES BIBLE

BETTY BUTTERBOTTOM

BILL DEDRICK and

BILL RHODES

Acrobatic and balancing

Juggling

Juggling and plate spinning

Magic-Illusions

Balancing-Contortion

Agent - Shopping Centers

Agent - Military Bases

Agent - Sponsored Dates

Kiddie Rides

Pony Ride

Candy Wagon

Sign painters who did such a  
swell job on our equipment

Most of all, a big "thanks" to my family -- JUDY, MIKE, KENNY

*Happy*

## ON THE ROAD

The Voorheis Bros. Circus opened its mid-winter tour last week (Jan. 10) with two shows at Alma, Mich. The show will tour until early February. They also have a spring tour set which starts in April, and a fall tour that will start in September.

Appearing with the show at the current time are:

The Berocinis - jugglers  
 The Tabaks - rotating perch  
 The Lang's Chimps  
 Hal Haviland - dogs and ponies  
 The Great Ryonus - incline walk  
 Amazing Otto - ladder balance  
 Serodzchil - sword balance  
 Ron Perry - wire walk  
 Miss Kookie - trapeze  
 Billy Voorheis III - juggling

Wilma Rench will handle the musical chores, while "Col." Bill Voorheis will be both ringmaster and drummer.

## PEOPLE

AL YOUNGMAN, circus musical director, has been wintering in the Massachusetts area.

BARBARA and SYLVESTER BRAUN Wild West performers worked casuale in the Los Angeles, Cal. area during December. They also worked the dedication ceremony (Dec. 29) at Wilderness Park, doing whip cracking, knives and rope spinning.

PHIL SHEAR will be working advance and doing some booking for the John Strong Circus again this year.

WANDA and HANK MOORE, she is the daughter of the late Jack Moore and Angela Moore Akeman, now live in Dallas, Texas. Hank is recovering from a recent injury.

"SUNBURST" CHARLIE LOCKIER is reportedly in a hospital recovering from a recent illness. He is a well known show painter.

DAVE WHARTON and ROBERT G. EARL are making plans to tour their own shows this year.

FRANK HANNON, Ho Po, the Circus Clown, worked Christmas dates at Watertown, N.Y. on Dec. 15-16 and Auburn, Me. on Dec. 23. He is going to be on several Main Shrina shows during the upcoming year.



1935  
 THE HOLLIS Riding Act is scoring with Barnett Bros.' Circus. Left to right: Melvin Hollis, Bessie Hollis, Helene Rogers, Flo McIntosh and Pat Knight.

# YEARS AGO

The Sig Sautelle Wagon Show of 1897 played dates in New York, Conn. and Penna.

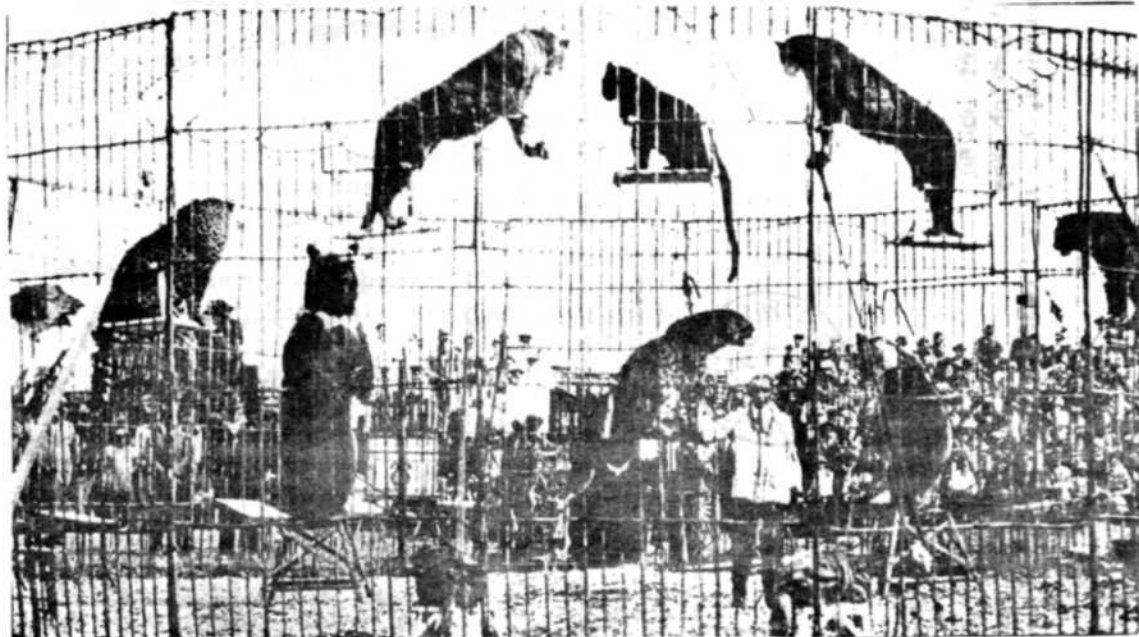
The show was owned by Sig Sautelle and managed by John E. Ogden. Band-leader that season was C. F. Brown.

The side show was managed by Tom Francis, who made openings, was the inside lecturer and also did Punch & Judy, magic and vent work.

Other side show features were: Car-men, snakes, and mental routines; Miss La Mer, juggling and weight lifting.

## SHOW PROGRAM (Continued from Page 7)

Fraspa - single trapeze  
 Aerial ballet - 4 girls  
 Garry Grant - performing pigs  
 -- Intermission --  
 Fanny Espinosa - trained lions  
 Brian Gill - rope spinning  
 Jonass and Kay - iron jaw  
 Franciscos - slack wire  
 Lorraine Ashton - whip act  
 Philip Zecchini - elephants (3)  
 Frank Gesser - plate spinning  
 Theo Zecchini Trio - mus. clowns  
 Skip, the Clown - song number  
 The Flying Ashtons and the Fly-  
 ing Franciscos  
 Grand Finale



The mixed animal act pictured above is probably similar to the newly imported Samel Mixed Animal Act which will be appearing on the Ringling-Barnum Circus in 1974. The above act shows leopards, lions, tigers, black panther, brown bear and a Himalayan bear being worked in the same arena.

## A 10% GAIN

Two special events - a parade and a 500 ft. "Sky Stroll" by Karl Wallenda - were credited with boosting attendance at the Jerusalem Shrine Circus (Nov. 17-25) at New Orleans, La. Chairman Lucien Les-tremau reported that attendance for the nine days was up 10% over that of 1972.

Some of the acts featured in the show's program were:

- The Wallendas - high wire
- Geronimo - sponge dive
- The Flying Valentines and the Flying Latinos
- The Leighs and Geraldos - giant loop swings
- Guzman-Mariettas and the Verdus - unicycles and rolling globe
- Bob Johnson - one finger stand
- The Caddy and the Pro - comedy
- The Cristianis - trampoline
- Norbu, almost human gorilla
- Bobo Barnett - car and dogs
- Fay Alexander - comedy car
- Heller-Bogino Troupe - leaps
- Gossing's Bengal tigers
- Diano's elephants
- Gilda's uncaged leopards
- Antonucci - dogs and chimps
- John Herriott - dogs, pony, horses

## Letters

Needless to say, I have been enjoying The Circus Report as much as ever. It looks to me as if you are making a success of it and it certainly is filling a much needed purpose for all us fans.

..... Bill Green