

CIRCUUS REPORT

"AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY"



9th Year

July 14, 1980

Number 28



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BY MIKE SPORRER

1954 - Aug. 13-14 - Polack Bros. Western

1955 - June 8-9 - Ward Bell Circus

1956 - Apr. 18-19 - Rudy Bros. Circus

1957 - Apr. 15-16 - Rudy Bros. Circus

1958 - June 13-14 - Rudy Bros. Circus

1959 - June 6 - Rudy Bros. Circus

1960 - June 6 - Rudy Bros. Circus

1961 - Apr. 19 - Ken Jensen Circus

1962 - May 2 - Ken Jensen Circus

1963 - Apr. 24 - Ken Jensen Circus

1964 - Apr. 20 - Ken Jensen Circus

1965 - Apr. 19 - Ken Jensen Circus

1966 - Apr. 16 - Ken Jensen Circus

1967 - Apr. 15 - Ken Jensen Circus

1968 - Apr. 11 - Ken Jensen Circus

1969 - Apr. 10 - Reppine's Int'l

1970 - Apr. 14 - Reppine's Int'l

1971 - Apr. 12 - Reppine's Int'l

1972 - Apr. 8-9 - Reid Bros.

1973 - Apr. 10 - Reid Bros.

1974 - Apr. 22 - Grand Circus Safari

1975 - May 13 - Grand Circus Safari

1976 - May 17 - Grand Circus Safari

1977 - May 10 - Grand Circus Safari

1978 - None

1979 - Apr. 17 - Grand Circus Safari

In 1954 the circus was presented in the High School Stadium. In 1955 the circus was presented under canvas. All other dates have been presented in the Jr. High School Gym.

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CIRCUS QUIPS

BY KARL J. BISCHOFF

IF THE TRUTH were known, the good old circus days were good because we were not so old.

A SMART SHOWMAN knows a dream's a dream but reality in circus business makes money.

HOW ABOUT the show that opened early in Spring? It was so cold that the announcer's words came out of his mouth like ice cubes, they had to put them on the cook house griddle to thaw to find out what he was saying.

AS I SEE IT - your creditors will want to know when you'll come across not when your ancestors did.

MOST CIRCUS performers we know are the successes they are because they give the public more than it expects.

Important Note!

(The following notice was received this past week)

We at Circus Vargas would like to thank you for your continued interest in the circus, but due to a change in company policy we are sorry to announce that the Circus Vargas route sheet will no longer be mailed out.

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MAILBAG

from William Wotsch

In the Spring of April 1940, it was once again rodeo time at the Cleveland Arena. Col. Jim Eskew and his J. E. Ranch Rodeo played our building. We put up corrals in the back yard, and had to put cattle fencing around the hockey facilities, plus dirt for the floor.

One of the big names on the program was Wild Bill Elliott (Gordon Elliott) the western movie star. He was starring in the Wild Bill Hickok series and was very popular.

One day while we were sitting in our arena back yard, Wild Bill Elliott asked us where a person could get something to eat. We pointed to a small diner across the way and then he asked us to join him for dinner. This certainly made us feel good, a western movie star asking us to go along and eat with him.

Junior Eskew did his trick and fancy roping, and there was also Buddy Medford, Chip Morris and his horse, plus the usual bronco bustin' numbers, steer wrestling, roping calves, bull riding and barrel racing.

The program cost 25c and on the front was a photo of the western star appearing with the show. Inside were photos of a rodeo in action. It also had an article explaining the judging of different rodeo events.

Then each program had a number and if that number was called out during intermission the lucky person won a prize. A lot of prizes were given away, but the main one was a Ford V-8 given away on the last day of the rodeo.

That was really a bargain - a program for 25c, plus prizes and a chance on a car. You couldn't beat that!

REPORT**ROYAL CROWN CIRCUS**

An advance promotion and ticket sale accounts for the major sale of circus tickets for the Royal Crown Circus. Tickets are priced from \$3.50 to \$8.50.

Krystali (Jack Mester) directs the show in a smooth manner, moving from one illusion to an act, back to an illusion. He makes good use of a Miniature flame thrower in each hand, each of which sends out a flame 5 to 6 feet, with flash pots exploding wherever he points.

In addition to the usual circus acts the show this year features two specialty acts:

Krystali's Krazy Kars consists of eight miniature cars. One is an accordion-type auto with the rear end standing still while the front end moves ahead for about 30 feet, then the rear rushes to catch up with the front. Another car has two front ends, each trying to go their own way until they stretch out for some 20 feet. One car actually walks about the show ring, and one unit looks like a small fire truck with a trailer and a huge siren. The trailer consistently gets in the way of the front end.

Another feature on the show is the Royal Lep-echaun Horses, eight full grown horses measuring just 19 to 23 inches high. They do a variety of routines, then four jump over the backs of the other four, all at the same time as they circle the ring, sort of like playing leap frog. At the end of the act several larger horses are introduced.

A QUOTE - from Wisconsin State Senator Clifford Krueger

"It's very wrong to compare the Senate to a circus because a circus is better organized and always knows where it's going."

Show Dates

Ali Ghan Shrine Circus
July 21 Hagerstown, Md.

Big Apple Circus
July 19-27 Brooklyn, NY

Carden-Johnson Circus
July 14 Keokuk, Iowa
15 Columbus Junction
16 Muskatine
17 Clinton
18-19 Davenport
20 Washington

Carson & Barnes Circus
July 14 Wells, Minn.
15 Faribault
16 St. Peter
17 Marshall
18 Brookings, S.D.
19 Huron

Circus Arts Troupe
July 15-16 Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Circus City Festival
July 16-19 Peru, Ind.

Circus Marantha
July 14-20 Baltimore, Md.

Circus Vargas
July 19 Rock Springs, Wyo.

Hoxie Bros. Circus
July 14 Lyndhurst, NJ
15 Secaucus
16 Valhalla, NY
17 Middletown
18 Ellenville
19 Kingston
20 Clifton Park

Hubler Int'l Circus
July 19 Oakland, Md.
20 Cumberland

Int'l All Star Circus
July 12 Beacon, NY

Make-A-Circus
July 15 San Francisco, Calif.

Pickle Family Circus
July 15-16 Nevada City, Calif.
19-20 Sacramento

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
July 15-29 Inglewood, Calif.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
to July 20 Houston, Texas

Roberts Bros. Circus
July 14 Manchester, N.H.
15 Wilmington
18 Dawson, Pa.
19 Oakland
20 Cumberland

Royal Crown Circus
July 15-16 Alma Gordo, NM
18 Carlsbad
20 Hobbs

Royal Hanneford Circus
July 12-Aug. 10 Rye, NY

Swan Bros. Circus
to July 19 Santa Rosa, Calif.

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus
July 18-20 Bemidji, Minn.

---- MAGIC ----

Mr. Fingers
July 16 St. Louis, Mo.
17-20 St. Louis

Manzini - Escape Artist
to Sept. 1 Lake George, NY

Prof. Miller's Magic Time USA
July 14 Galena, Ill.
15 Clinton, Iowa
16 Spring Valley, Ill.
17 Princeton

Tom Ogden
to Aug. 24 Sheffield, Mass.

P.C.A.M. Convention
July 16-18 Portland, Oregon

---- OTHER DATES ----

Erik & Bobbi Adams
July 16-23 Wm. Kay Circus

(Continued on Page 6)



HAMID-MORTON's final date was Hempstead, L. I., a new one, the last week in June. JORGE BARREDA came on to play that week when WADE BURCK left to take his white tigers to the annual summer park date - Marineland.

DARRYL WALLEN has added two acts to his new package which includes DONNA MARIE and "Cabaret" a high school horse worked on long reins, and a miniature albino mule for the small fry. These acts in addition to (of course) the remarkable "Mr. Rythm."

CAROL WAINWRIGHT created a six page single spaced "newsletter" which she mailed out (the "newsletter" was created especially for their close friends LEIGH and NANCY HEIGHSINGER now with Circus Knie). The letter tells in minutest detail of their recent tour in Japan with PAUL V. KAYE. Well, it's a novelette and I confess to only skimming it, my time being so limited nowadays, but it certainly was an "epic-effort", Carol. And I'm sure Leigh and Nancy enjoyed it.

ELFIE KLEMENTI did "Mary Kay" facials for a woman's group in Reno as she, along with RUTHIE CLARK (Estreleta) have become Mary Kay Beauty Consultants. I'm sure most of my femme readers know that this enterprise was started by a woman in Texas which has mushroomed nationwide. The Klementis are still in the "Bedazzle" show at Lake Tahoe and recently they visited with RON RITAS, SERGIO and MITZIE RAMOS, in Reno and Elfie tells me the Ronritas are going to (and by this time are) at CC in Las Vegas.

SNAPSHOTS: That new clown this season with Hamid-Morton was MACK ESHLEMAN of Eshleman Meat Co., in Lemoyne, Pa., a suburb of Harrisburg and only 50 miles from me. Mack is also a member of the Shrine Temple in Harrisburg. . .AL and LYDIA BURKETT created a new strobliite finish they used for the first time in Pittsburgh with Hamid-Morton. . .SUSAN ZOPPE's brother and sister STEPHEN and SANDY visited in St. Louis. . .The FELDS set Holiday on Ice at the Aladdin Hotel in Vegas for a month. . .A new juggler joined the cast of Flamingo's Razzle-Dazzle show. His name is JEAN CLAUDE. . .MURILLO and ULISES are in the 15th edition of the Folies

Bergere along with the MARQUIS CHIMPS

TIBI YOUNG has constructed a new act for EVA - a huge descending globe (draped in black that Eva gets into - presumably in the dark as I haven't seen it yet) and as it rises, it slowly opens to become the petals of a flower. Eva then does a revolving trap replete with lighting effects. . .JOSIP MARCAN reportedly has eight young tigers being held for him by RON WHITFIELD at Marineland -Africa USA. . .The famed CHIPPERFIELDS from England were on hand to watch Circus Vargas set up and tear down. . .The GAUCHOS, on CV last year, now at Busch Gardens in Tampa. . .ZAPATA is in the Los Angeles County Hospital, very ill. During the Los Angeles area engagements of the American Continental Circus MARTHA SUAREZ visited him frequently. . .Visitors to Circus Vargas recently included TV personality SHEILA McCRAE and her family. . .WALLY ROSS and DICK DRAKE were in Florida working on a movie. (the BURT REYNOLDS flick, I think). . .A new white tiger was born Dec. 23rd to the joy of SIEGRIED and ROY who, incidentally, have a five year pact with the Felds for TV specials. . .TOM HENRICKS is the organizer behind the ALBERT and JEANETTE RIX TENT in Toledo and he tells me there are now over 40 members. He is working hard to make this tent a success. . .When RED SKELTON was guest ringmaster in Columbus, Ohio with Castle, he presented AL ROSS with a large check commemorating Al's 50th year in show business. I first met Al when I was about 9 years old. . .At Circus World in Baraboo is JON FRIDAY and the HERRIOTT family. . .CINDY is doing cloud-swing, HEIDI is doing single traps, MARY RUTH is presenting her poodle revue, JOHN rides an Appaloosa stallion, and the entire family presents the 3 large bulls owned by DOREY MILLER. Also on the bill are ADA SMIEYA and her tigers and lions, and JIMMY WILLIAMS "Happy the Clown".

JON FRIDAY writes the Castle show had TWO tight wire acts featuring the back somersault recently with RICARDO CANES-TRELLI and CHRIS JAMES. . .BEN DeWAYNE - on dates with the Paul Kaye ele-

(Continued on Page 20)

Show Dates

Buffalo Bill Days
July 20 Golden, Colo.

Burr's Fun-O-Rama
July 14-20 Buzzards Bay, Mass.

Dondi, the Elephant
July 14-30 Baltimore, Md.

James H. Drew Exposition
July 14-19 Olney, Ill.

Firemen's Muster
July 19-20 San Jose, Calif.

Fpley & Burk Shows
to July 19 Santa Rosa, Calif.

Frontier Days
July 18-27 Cheyenne, Wyo.

Grund Western Collection
to July 20 San Jose, Calif.

Hall & Christ Attractions
July 15-20 Madison, Wisc.
17-27 Chicago, Ill.

Jubilee Minstrels
July 9-13 Berkeley, Calif.

Mighty Thomas Shows
July 14-19 Red Deer, Albt.

Royal American Shows
to July 26 Rockford, Ill.

Royal Lipizzan Stallions
July 18-19 San Bernardino, Calif.

The Sikorskys - Jugglers
to July 27 Salem, NH

Frank Strout - western act
July 17-19 El Dorado, Ark.

Tent Troupe
July 14 Madison, Ind.
15 Seymour
16 Columbus
17-19 Bloomington

Tip Top Shows - Blue Unit
July 15-20 Seymour, Wisc.

Tip Top Shows - Green Unit
July 15-20 Baraboo, Wisc.

Ventriloquist Convention
July 17-19 Ft. Mitchell, Ky

White House in Miniature
July 18-27 Philadelphia, Pa.



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by MARIO DE MARCO —



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A LOSS OF OVER \$200,000!

REPORT

CIRCUS MARANATHA

by Allen Babcock

After several days of rain and threatening tornados, the skies cleared and May 31st, the day Circus Maranatha arrived in DeCatur, Ill. was a beautiful day.

The show set up on the local football field and the performance was presented at 7 p.m. with about 2000 people attending. Admission was free, with everyone given an opportunity to make a donation towards helping with the circus expenses.

The program opened with a half hour of religious songs, led by a local church choir. After this there was an invocation, the National Anthem and an overture, with the circus performance following. It included: Olinka, slide for life; The Valla Duo; Clown; Olinka, web; P. J. Theron (Capt. Explodo); Tino, comedy lamp post; Intermission; Col. J. P. and his Tank; The Bertinis, unicycle; J. P., comedy bike; Tino and Olinka, high wire.

After the program Tino gave a religious sermon and invited people to follow the Lord. Several people went forward to indicate their acceptance of the Lord.

The following day all of the circus people were guests of the Four Square Church, and Tino gave a fine message at the evening service. That message and others were filmed for TV's P.T.L. Club and were shown between June 30th and July 4th.

On The Cover

This week's cover painting by Robert B. Johnson recreates the "Old King Cole" spec presented by the Ringling-Barnum Circus in 1941.

Two small elephants herald the arrival of Old King Cole, who is seated in his throne, carried by four large elephants, each with a girl rider. The part of Old King Cole was played by the late clown Felix Adler.

This Spec was one of the finest ever created for the Ringling-Barnum Circus and featured many of the old nursery rhyme characters. It was presented as the No. 5 display in the show's program.

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REPORT

FUNS-A-POPPIN CIRCUS

by Parley Baer

Several times during the latter part of the school year, Ernestine, myself and Arthur Barrett caught Betty Wendany's Funs-A-Poppin Circus at different schools in and about the San Fernando Valley in Southern California.

The first thing to catch the eye was the neatness and orderliness of the show on the various lots. Everything was brightly and newly painted, arranged in an eye-pleasing fashion, and side wall, bleachers and rigging arranged to immediately capture the fancy of those attending.

In addition to the general excellence of the show itself, was the evident joy of all personnel during the performances. With only 45 minutes or an hour between shows, during which time the ring, seats and grounds were cleaned up and picked up and everything was made spick and span for the on-coming performance, spirit and enthusiasm never flagged.

Betty Wendany, herself, sets the spirit and attitude of the show. Never a let-down, never settling back, she makes each performance seem like the first one of the day. Ringmistrering the show in an excellent clown make up, and working as "Betty Spaghetti" she sets a fast pace, keeps it up and everyone else does a "quick two-four" to keep up with her.

A "family show" in fact, as well as advertised, Ms. Wendany makes several "smaller" west coast shows - both current and past - look to their laurels. The performance is strong, it's clean, it's happy and there's no "con". Several so-called showmen working

in this area could learn a lot from "Funs-A-Poppin."

Betty's talented daughter, Heidi, is a joy to watch. That she loves what she's doing is more than evident. Hot sun, hard black-top, standing room only or a sparse handful, Heidi is a trouper and all that it implies. She's great.

Here's a line up of the performance, which varies only slightly from school to school. Betty Wendany greets the audience warmly, with a brief explanation as to the sponsor and the good-works of the sponsor, then goes into her Betty Spaghetti routine (Betty not only announces the show, fills some of the spots, but also operates the taped and recorded music. The music, incidentally, has been well selected and provides very good background music for all the acts. Betty's care in choosing and in operating the turn-tables adds much to the professionalism of the operation).

After Betty's intro, a fast, well-trained dog act worked by the versatile Heidi opens the show; Magic Bag, clown number worked by either Betty or her colleague "Silly Milly" (both Betty and Milly get the laughs); then comes "Willie the Goat" a large white goat trained and presented by clown "Gene-Gene the Rock and Roll Machine"; swinging ladder featuring Linda Miller, assisted by Russ Camp; Tug-O-War with an assortment of kids from the audience is presented by Gene Gene; Heidi Wendany presents a slick pony drill of beautifully matched Welsh ponies (two of the mares had foaled and their two offspring were presented much to the delight of the youngsters).

Betty and Milly alternated with "Make It Bigger" the balloon gag; Trampoline fun by

(Continued on Page 16-B)

WANT

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PEOPLE**TV TALK SHOW GUESTS**

WILLIE LESTER, ventriloquist, was a guest
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MARK WILSON, magician-illusionist, was a
guest on the John Davidson TV Show on
July 7th.

GLEN FALKENSTEIN, illusionist, was a
guest on the Merv Griffin TV Show on July
8th.

THE AMAZING KRESKIN was a guest on
the Mike Douglas TV Show on July 9th.

JAY JOHNSON, ventriloquist, was a guest
on the John Davidson TV Show on July 11.

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REPORT

CIRCUS CONTINENTAL

by Rev. George C. Bingaman

Circus Continental played five dates in Hershey, Pa., in connection with the First Annual Superdooper Fair, held in Hershey's stadium near Hershey Park, on June 17 to 22. Produced by Klein's Attractions under the management of Robert Kaltenbach the circus has been appearing throughout the nation in spot, non-tour situations.

Circus Continental is a nifty one hour, highly-appealing and entertaining one ring show played under a Leaf rented canvas big top, presenting a neat, well-dressed decor. The come-in clowning was handled by Middy Streeter, Larry Rich and Phyllis Guggenheim who also performed their shenanigans between acts with several routines.

The show moved without delay under the whistling of ringmaster Bob Bellows and a musical combo headed by Warren Kime, trumpet, Harold Kremser, organ and Rick Smiley, drums. A diversified series of animal and skill acts made the program appealing to children of all ages.

Carmen del Molina, Queen of the Silver Strand, opened the order of displays with a lovely and attractive performance on the low wire. Announced as "just from the MGM Hotel in Las Vegas" Carmen showed her superb class with a foot-propelled hoop, a two legged table and board rola bola series.

Clark's cats took the audience to the steel cage of five young, healthy and lively lions, one male, four females, who under the direction of Mike and Missie Clark delighted the audience with roll-overs, jump-overs, group

sit-ups, a walk-over Missie lying helpless on the suspended bar, and Leoness the flag waver. A great new cat act.

After a crowd-delighting clown tug-o-war featuring Josie, the World's Strongest Woman, Giovanni's Pizza Surprise entertained with a novel, comic, acrobatic plate spinning act, much superior to most plate spinning seen under canvas and in circuses. John and Christel Alberti are veteran show people who know how to please the public with polished professionalism in their skill.

Following the tooth-extraction gag, Johnsons Bears pleased the audience with a group of 4 ursines, black bears whose entertainment featured Bernice the Kissing Bear climaxed by the foot-balanced flaming bar.

Carmen and Hunk Alberti returned with Alberti's Poodles (8), spirited and happy canines who bow-wowed the audience with an assortment of tricks, climaxed in the poodle modeling fashion show.

Middy, Larry and Phyllis continued their clownigans with the Baby Carriage Gag before LaVonne's Cloud Swing, as good as any slack rope swing this reviewer has seen in a decade. Teenager Yvonne Johnson presents an attractive aerial performance in polished smooth professionalism closing with appropriate fireworks, a super act.

The di Pietro Canestrelli Family provided a rousing close to a fine show with acrobatics teeterboard Musketeering. The eight Canestrelli's are a prime example of circus family solidarity proving again that circus family life not only produces outstanding circus skills but also superb parent-child relationships, that nurture wholesome healthy and moral youth.

REPORT**COA CONVENTION**

by John "Krako" Guthrie

Clowns of America held its 11th annual Convention in Denver, Colo., April 16-20. Over four hundred clowns from thirty-six states, Puerto Rico, Nova Scotia and Canada attended the event.

During the four day convention there were seminars on make-up, puppets, juggling, magic, props, along with two lectures and shows by clowns from St. Louis (Ickle Pickle) and San Jose, Calif. (Rainbow). The audience for these shows were made up of nearby school children. A total of eight educational sessions were offered during the convention.

The nights were filled with entertainment from bands, dealers show, and on Saturday night a show by a ventriloquist and a local magician. During the afternoon on Saturday over 130 clowns were in assorted beautiful costumes and make-up for the annual walk around make-up and costume contest. There were ten winners in the White Face, Auguste, Tramp and Character class. They were all truly winners. The TV show "Real People"

Summer Address

FOR HARRY THOMAS

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was there to film the convention and it will be featured in their show in September.

Clowns of America is a national and now an international organization and is growing each year. Members have the opportunity to receive the monthly publication "Calliope" and this is the only national magazine dedicated to "clowning". It is truly the only magazine published which features "information" for clowns about clowns. Many of the circus clowns are members of COA, along with clowns and people from every walk of life.

Next year's convention will be held in Wisconsin and then in 1982 it will be held in New Mexico. Clowns of America is a fun organization and their members are "truly" fun people.

WANTED

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REPORT**GERRY COTTLE'S CIRCUS CLOSES**

by Jack Niblett

Gerry Cottle's Circus folded its tents for the last time on June 7th, and the circus has gone into a state of voluntary liquidation.

Cottle, still a young man, has been presenting circus performances for the last ten years, firstly, in partnership with Brian Austen, as Cottle and Austen's Circus, and then as Gerry Cottle's Circus, Ltd., and built up his show swiftly, until it became one of England's largest traveling shows, occasionally fielding two units. Regarded by many as an innovator, Gerry introduced new presentations and equipment, presented large scale London seasons, secured many lucrative television contracts and organized overseas tours.

During 1979, plagued by financial difficulties Gerry was forced by his creditors to modify his operations, and he was partially successful in trimming his budget.

A disastrous pre-revolution Iran engagement for which no payment was ever received, unsuccessful winter engagements, inflation and

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taxation, and now a very poor beginning to this years trading, with takings not sufficient to meet the weekly costs, forced the company to call a meeting of its creditors with a view to liquidation.

However, Cottle, with customary business acumen, meanwhile had formed a subsidiary company, Gerry Cottle's Circus (1980) Ltd and at an agreed price secured all the shares in this company, and thus acquired the assets. These included animals and equipment, and it is conjectured that Mr. Cottle will begin touring again when the time is ripe.

From a personal observation 1980 is proving a difficult year for British circuses, poor business stemming from some of the reasons listed above. However, English circus owners are an optimistic lot, and still hope for a better second half to this season.

Very keen interest is being taken in the new and expensive David Smart's Super Circus which is having a sixteen week's run at Battersea Park, London. - it is felt by many that the future of big-time circus in England will be indicated by the fortunes of this show.

PEOPLE

JIM DALE, a British music hall performer, is starring in the Broadway musical "Barnum", which also features **MARIANNE TATUM** as Jenny Lind.

JACK BENNETT recently visited with **CLAYTON MOORE** (The Lone Ranger) and reports he spent four hours or so discussing show business.

PEG BAKER, of Stockton, Calif., will return to the stage this month when she tours several California fairs with her juggling act.

CLARK McDERMOTT has returned to Texas after playing the Poplar Bluff Shrine date with his Cold Nose Five act. He is presently training a new dog for the act.

RAY BRETHOUR, show artist, got started painting circus equipment when he was in New Zealand and the Wirth Circus asked him to paint their show for the Auckland, NZ date.

(M.T.) **JOHNNIE MARSHALL** visited Kelly Bros. Circus at Wellsville, Mo. on June 2nd. He reports that **BRAD FRANK** was doing the announcing in addition to his family acts.

BOB KEESHAN, who played Clarabell the Clown on the old Howdy Doody Show is now known as Captain Kangaroo.

LaMONDE LATISHA JACOBI, daughter of **CAROLINE** and **RUDY JACOBI**, recently

BETTY WENDANY'S FUNS-A-POPPIN

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won 1st Prize in the Santa Rosa "Baby Beauty Pageant" then went on to win the title of "Little Miss Sonoma County". There were more than 100 participants in the contest at its start.

MEL HALL writes he is looking forward to visiting the Ringling-Barnum Circus when it plays Lake Charles, La., on July 22-23.

FRANK DEAN, trick roper, and **SKEETER VAUGHAN**, knife thrower, taped a segment of the new "You Bet Your Life" TV series. They competed against each other and the prize they won can be seen when you watch the show.

BLACKSTONE, the Magician, has been set as part of the annual stage show series which is presented annually in San Francisco. He is to appear in that city in December.

DAVE TWOMEY and his Happytime Circus, **BRUCE ANDERSON**, high sway pole act performer, **WINI McKAY**, trapeze star, **CHESTER CABLE**, foot juggler and **VANDER-**

MEIDA, hypnotist, were the featured free acts at the Pleasanton, Calif., fair this year.

JUANITA "Mini-Ha-Ha" HOLDCRAFT, entertained the children of the Unity Church of Dallas during a summer retreat in June.

CLIFFORD KRUEGER, Wisconsin State Senator, sponsored Franzen Bros. Circus as a fund raising program for his current election campaign.

ED McMAHON, of the Johnny Carson TV Show was a circus clown in the early 1950's TV show "Big Top".

VAN CHAUVIN (Blossom) and BIL PENNY (Uncle Will), Arlington, Texas, clowns, are teaching "Introduction to Clowning" to gifted children from disadvantaged families at a Texas college.

BILLY BARTY, THE WILLETYS, GENE BELL and THE STEPPIN' STONES were featured on the July 5-6 vaudeville show presented at the fair in Pleasanton, Calif.

PAUL WINCHELL, well-known ventriloquist, holds the patent for a plastic heart pump that thus far has proved successful in animals.

MIKE SPORRER, regular contributor to CR, has been elected to the CFA's Board of Directors.

GEORGE HANNEFORD will bring his circus to the Illinois State Fair in the fall.

Acts

FLECKLES CIRCUS - Poplar Bluff, Mo. June 19 - 20

The program for the Shrine Circus at Poplar Bluff, Mo., shows the following acts:

Barreda's wild animals; the Munoz Sisters, aerialists; Cimse's Poms and Wolfhounds; Pancho Magana, whips; Princess Sunshine, sword balance; Los Argentinos, perch; the Flying Aztecas; Chimps; Lou Ann Jacobs, aerialist; Johnny Luxem, high wheel.

After intermission: The Cold Nose Five presented by Clark McDermott; Janie's Dobermans; The Bertinis, swinging perch; The Osarian Troupe, risley; Zamperla Riding act; Joselito, high wire; Elephants and Finale.

Miscellaneous

Circus Fans in Arizona raised the John Strong Tent at Prescott, Ariz., on June 20th. Ceremonies were under the direction of CFA President Fred Reed and Tent President John McGinn and were held under the show big top.

All members of the Big John Strong Circus were guests of the Arizona fans at a buffet held in the home of Barbara and John McGinn. John Strong attended the event, with his wife, Gudron, and daughters Nicole and Sandy, and son Terrell.





MAGIC LIMITED - LLOYD E. JONES - 4064 39TH AVE., OAKLAND, CA. 94619

by LLOYD E. JONES

Your writer and Byron Walker (P. O. Box 3186, San Leandro, Ca. 94578) have fortunately obtained a supply of LEE GRABEL posters which will be offered for sale.

Lee Grabel, who Arnold Furst, in his Famous Magicians of the World Book (\$3.00 plus 59c postage) said he "might someday be considered as the world's greatest magician," hasn't toured for a while, but he is planning to do so again in 1981 or 1982. Once you are a showman you are always infested with the desire to travel and perform. But what problems await the present day big magic show! Inflation, gasoline, animal restrictions, insurance, unions, inadequate stages, to name a few. But perform he will and perform he must.

The big Grabel posters are also a thing of the past, now it's window cards, photos and newspaper publicity, so the two sheets we have are records of a fading age.

One poster in very short supply is that of the Gravel Floating Piano, a show feature that has obtained more front page publicity AFTER a show than any other illusion. These posters are \$35.00.

The other poster is also a two sheet and has the Grabel portrait and is \$25.00

We also have a panel of the cannon illusion as presented by Grabel for \$10.00. Mailing is a problem since expensive tubes must be obtained, so add \$2.00 to your order for postage and handling, and we will include a copy of the Grabel pitch book which bears a \$3.50 price and besides the usual tricks there are several photos of show action. Alone the book is \$2.00 with postage 41c. The Floating Piano is shown on the back cover.

Grabel uses some Dante illusions in his show and at one time actice correspondence was underway for him to take over the Dante show. Copies of these letters are on my desk and will be used in an article in the Journal of Magical History. This occured during the big depression (what we have today is a recession) so the deal was never carried to fruition. But the letters show in what high esteem Dante held Lee Grabel and how often times and hopes and plans just don't work out.

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Miscellaneous

Rock Springs, Wyoming, is having more circus activity this year than they've seen in a long time. The city has suddenly become a popular show site because of its population growth, and because it is a good spot to to play as a break in a long jump.

Here are the show dates thus far for that city:

June 27 - Carden-Johnson Circus

July 10-11 Big John Strong Circus

July 19 - Circus Vargas

In addition to the above shows, the city also played host to a carnival early this month.

PEOPLE

JOHN and MIKE WINN, high wire and aerial motorcycle performers, worked at Knott's Berry Farm on July 4th, then went to the big Orange County (Calif.) Fair. Later they will go into Kennywood Park. So far this year the two performers have crossed the country seven times.

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BILL BURGER has been booking dates in the Pacific Northwest for the Big John Strong Circus. He plans to rejoin the show, where he will have the front door, as soon as his present schedule is completed.

MIKE FARINO, well-known showman is now working with the Foley & Burk Shows.

ENOCH BRAFFORD made a trip east to be at his brother's funeral. He will soon rejoin the Big John Strong Circus for the remainder of its 1980 tour.

WINI McKAY and CHESTER CABLE, completed their date at the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton, Calif., then jumped to a date in Fresno, Calif. Wini also has an engagement with a rock concert in Southern California.

FUNS-A-POPPIN (Continued)

Mindy and Henry Crowell; "Circus Game" clown gag with audience participation; 'Kogar the Gorilla' which properly 'scares' the small fry in the audience; Hula Hoop contest with kids from the audience participating and the winners get prize tickets that provides a choice of goodies from the concession wagon. (Betty adroitly manages this so there are no losers and everyone has a good time).

The next spot is the "Higher and Higher" clown gag, well known and well done by Betty and Gene-Gene; Miss Linda Miller returns with a Spanish web routine, then comes Papa Fred Wendany with a different and really pleasing dog act. Seasoned performer that he is Papa Fred still looks and acts as he did when he was with the Ringling show. Linda Miller presents the "Elephant Dog" a happy little terrier in a very-well made elephant suit. Apparently most of the kids in the San Fernando Valley had never seen this before, because every show had the young-uns offering shouts of delight for this number.

Heidi returns at this point with her Morgan stallion "Billy Tin Gun" in a well-done dressage routine. In spite of the fact that the horse was working on black-top Heidi and "Billy" came off very well and at most performances caught this seemed to be the high

spot of the show.

Clown number with the falling eggs got strong results and Sporty the Wonder Dog did a High Dive and everyone worked in the finale.

The show was pleasing to youngsters and to parents alike, and we heard many comments on the calibre of the show and the extreme cleanliness of the entire operation. The small working crew were clean and neat, working in light blue jump suits. They seemed to enjoy their part as much as the performers. Concessions were priced sensibly and everyone in the audience was "lickin" or "chompin" all the time.

All in all the three of us found each performance we attended thoroughly pleasing and very nostalgic. If ever a show deserved success this one does. Quite evidently it is primarily a one woman operation and Betty is that woman. She merits success and a lot of sponsors other than schools would be wise to book Funs-A-Poppin.

Long may they roll!

in the NEWS

TOO MANY ELEPHANTS ?

White elephants are a symbol of good fortune in Thailand, and by law they automatically become the property of the king.

So, the discovery of a year-old white elephant was expected to be an occasion for rejoicing in the royal household. Instead the news has been received with some restraint.

King Bhumibol Adulyadej apparently is up to here in white elephants - so much so that they threaten to really become "white elephants."

Under Thai law, all white elephants automatically become the property of the king. But the king already has a dozen white elephants and more is not necessarily better in these days of thundering inflation.

The care and feeding of the royal elephants is no small matter, says the elephant expert who has served the royal family for 50 yrs.

Inflation has pushed the cost of care up to \$5,000 a month, he said. And while the elephants are not exactly eating the king out of house and home, they do consume three truckloads of grass daily, in addition to vast quantities of bananas, sweet potatoes and sugar cane. It takes a staff of 10 to look after the elephants.

Not too many years ago the royal court used to send a portraitist to paint a newly discovered white elephant so the king could have a look at him - or her - and decide whether the animal was suitable for the royal herd. Today as an economy move, a color photograph will do.

Although described as a perfect specimen, the newly discovered white elephant is certain to undergo rigorous scrutiny before being accepted.

There are it seems, three grades of white elephants: the pre-eminent or No. 1 white elephant, the "unique" and the merely rare.

The newly found white elephant is said to possess the seven physical characteristics that put him in the top class. These are white eyes, white palate, white tail hair, white nails, white hair, white skin and white testicles.

Elephants have a long and honorable history in Thailand. Warrior elephants, the tanks of their day, once saved the Thai kingdom from invading Burmese.

PEOPLE

ANNETA "Jingles" MOERBE, a Dallas clown, recruited seven Alley 85 Clowns and several other notables to be bid runners, board workers, auctioneers and man the phones for Dallas' Channel 13 auction.

FRANK and JANET BURGER recently completed an engagement in Maine and will now be working spot dates during the summer.

JOHNNY WEISSMULLER, star of 19 Tarzan films, is living in Acapulco with his wife, MARIA. Stricken by a stroke two years ago he is unable to speak, but still enjoys hearing from his many fans. Send cards and letters to him at: Acapulco, Mexico. The post office will deliver them directly to him.

ZANITA, juggler and rolling globe artist, was one of the feature acts appearing at the July 7-19 fair in Santa Rosa, Calif.

Thank you for reading Circus Report this week - we hope you have enjoyed the issue and will tell your friends about the paper. They might also want to become a regular reader.

But white elephants have never been trained as fighters. Instead, because of their rarity, they are considered august omens of peace and prosperity. Actually, of course, they are albinos.

There is a Thai proverb that says to know a woman you must look at her mother, to know an elephant you must look at its tail.

Precisely what an elephant's tail proves is somehow lost in translation, but it helps if the tail is long, especially if it is a white elephant seeking admission to the royal circle. It's eyes should look like a cow's;

Sexual vigor is also vital, regardless of whether the elephant is male or female.

The sexual vigor of one of the king's elephants - a 25 yr. old male in his prime - is currently a problem because all the female white elephants are too young for mating, according to their keeper. It is strictly forbidden for a white elephant to mate with a non-white.

PEOPLE

CHUCK JONES, magician, was featured at the Marin County Fair in San Rafael, Calif., on July 4-5.

ARINA ISAACSON (Boo-lu the clown) operator of Circus a la Mode in Berkeley, Calif. was featured in a special photo story in the Oakland (Calif.) Tribune on July 1st.

JUDY LYNN, country-western singer, has announced she will retire on Nov. 15th, after completing her present contracts. She has been performing for over 25 years.

PAUL von ROTZ, **L. O. SLOAN** and **ROBERT DUFFY** star in the show "The Jubilee Minstrels" which winds up a nation-wide tour this month in Berkeley, Calif.

RICHIARDI, magician/illusionist, was caught in a fire while staying at the Seville Hotel in New York. The fire was reportedly set after someone had slain a woman hotel guest.

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SPECIAL

NEW TV SERIES UNDERWAY

A new series of TV shows called "You Bet Your Life" starring Buddy Hackett, will be aired on a nation-wide basis starting this September. The format is similar to the show that featured Groucho Marx for many years. In all some 90 shows are to be taped for the series. The producers are interested in people who have an unusual act or hobby that can be presented within the show's format.

Interested people should write to: "You Bet Your Life", 11331 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, Calif. 91604.

In Memoriam

ELMER L. DIEHL (81) a charter member of the AFM Local 761, of Williamsport, Pa., died in that city on March 10th. He held both the offices of President and Secretary of Local 761. Diehl was a trumpet player and had toured with many circuses including Walter L. Main and other shows such as the DeRue Bros. Musical Show.

FRANK W. MORRIS (84), of Ithaca, NY, died on June 19th. He worked for more than 60 years as a concession manager with a number of circuses including Ringling-Barnum and the Buffalo Bill Show. Survivors include his sister-in-law and several neices and nephews.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

phants, helped with the LARRY DEAN cat act and with a cradle act when the show was short-handed on those Canadian dates and Ben's son, SHAWN put on clown makeup to assist WIMPEY in clown bits. . . JIM DALE starring in Barnum, won a Tony Award and is also garnering sensational reviews for his performance, called "galvanizing" by most critics. The show Barnum, in case yadidn't know, is co-produced by the Felds and CT COLEMAN.

SIEGFRIED and ROY have finalized plans to allow Las Vegas school children to view their large collection of animals, including the famed white tiger cub, several days a month. . . BETTY ESCALANTE sends greetings to the injured CONNIE CLAUSEN - the two trouped together on RBBB. . . CHARLEY VAN BUSKIRK isn't getting much "engraving" done these days - he and JOYCE have a busy season. Listen Charley, I know all about that! . . . ED MIGLEY says all the production props have been built for the Cape Cod date. . . WES and FLORINE OLER took a brief holiday at their home in Florida after their closing with the BILL

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GARDEN unit and the start of their long fair route. . . Ditto ELLIE and SHIRLEY ABELLS of the IAN GARDEN office - who took off to Elkhart with their trailer and did NOTHING for a few days. . . TOMMY HANNEFORD has his tent unit at a Summer Fair at Purchase (NY) - near White Plains - for the College of Purchase ART'S FESTIVAL thru Aug. 10. . . BOOM BOOM has finally relocated in Chicago.

My grapevine tells me the majority of the tent shows are suffering financial woes. Rumors are that one has already folded (but this is only a rumor). Anyway, bad crowds seem to be the norm - bad news. More and more 1980 has the ambiance of the 1930's. Let's hope a NEW administration gives this country the shot in the arm it needs. Something is terribly out of kilter in Washington.

SEE YOU down the road, luvs.

The Dallas Hella Strine Clown unit of 25 men won first place competing with more than 300 other clowns, making this the 9th year the group has won a trophy at their annual convention.

HOTLINE

Trapeze artist Julio Farias (16 years of age) died on June 30th as a result of injuries suffered from a fall during a practice session of the Flying Farias act in Tucson, Ariz. After being hospitalized as a result of the fall officials reported he suffered severe head and internal injuries as well as a broken wrist.

The funeral services were held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Los Angeles, Calif., on July 3rd.

MAILBAG

from Bob Stoddard

In the June 23rd issue of Circus Report you goofed the item I sent you. It should have read:

Channel 13 (the educational station in Dallas) had their auction which they referred to as 'The Biggest Little Warehouse in Texas.'

CIRCUS BOOK - "The Circus Life and Adventures of Adam Bardy" - A truly interesting life story for old-timers especially. Only \$7.95 a copy. Order from: Adam Bardy, Thompson, Conn. - 06277.

in the NEWS

BUILDING NEEDS REPAIRS

A city institution - the Oakland, Calif., auditorium-theatre building is in need of repairs and the City Council isn't sure it has the necessary funds at this time.

Repair work is need on the building's roof, and its wooden floor needs to be replaced. The job is estimated to cost \$700,000.

One city official reports the building usually operates at a loss, and last year this amounted to \$264,000. He said there is some talk about tearing down the old structure.

The auditorium has been the site of the annual Aahmes Shrine Circus each spring and has housed a number of circuses during its lifetime. The Sells Floto Circus played in the building right after it was completed.

in the **NEWS**

ANIMALS FOR NEW MOVIE

(From an AP release dated July 1, 1980)

Thirty featured players in a film called "Savage Harvest" were packed into wooden and wire mesh cages and shipped out of Southern California to a shooting site in the Brazilian jungle.

The actors were animals - 21 lions, 4 leopards, two black cougars and three hyenas - and it took more than 12 hours to load them into the special transportation cages, which leave for Rio de Janeiro via New York.

"It's a huge operation," explained Mike Dalling, spokesman for Gentle Jungle, the world's largest training ranch and home of the traveling troupe.

"Not all of them are that easy to get into their cages," he said. "Some of them had to be sedated. There were four tons of lions alone."

The film, about a family in a lonely settlement cut off by jungle predators, stars Tom Skerritt, Melinda Dillon and 17 year old Tana

PEOPLE

TIM TEGGE, of the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus, reports he will soon have his show's new program books available (\$2.00 each from TNT Productions, Box 39, Garden Grove, Calif. 92642). He also has some of the show's route cards for those interested in them.

The LEE STEVENS DUO were recent guests of the BOB and JANE LANGE family on the Great American Circus lot at Finderne, N. J., which included a bar-b-que. The Lee Stevens Duo is now preparing for the fall season.

DAVE "Skinhead" LEWIS found out that clowning can really be hot stuff. For four days he worked outside in 112 degree temperature at Graf's Flea Market in Dallas.

Helper. Miss Helfer's father, Ralph Helfer, is co-producer and also owns Gentle Jungle.

"The animals have been trained on 78 different stunts for the film," Dalling said.

He said the largest of the animals is a 530 lb. lion called Zamba "who plays the main lion in the film."

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REPORT**CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS**

by Allen Babcock

On June 2nd, the Carson & Barnes Circus arrived for two performances at Jacksonville, Ill. There was a tornado watch that day, with lots of thunder, lightning and wind. Fortunately the storm went to the north and west of the circus lot.

At nearby Pekin there was a flash flood and the roof of the post office caved in. Most of the fields were still flooded when the circus arrived there on June 5th. Luckily they were setting up on a black-top lot that day.

The show's new tent which was made in Italy was supposed to arrive in the states about the 5th of June. If it arrived on schedule the show folks were hopeful they could have the tent in the air along about June 20th.

Lots of visitors on the show lots included: Charles Belletti, Mike and Marilyn Sorrell, Vernon Richardson, Bill and Eddie Backstein, Hans Dulles, Al Brown, Sidney Smith, the Engesser family, Edith Johnston and Tom Parkinson.

in the NEWS**ACROBAT SENTENCED**

The 59 year old head of an acrobatic troupe called "The Mad Monahans" has been sentenced to a record 20 consecutive life prison terms, plus an additional 10 years. Robert B. Butler, also known as Monahan, was handed the back-to-back sentence late last month by Las Vegas District Judge Paul Goldman.

Butler was convicted of 21 charges of sexual-assault against a minor and was sentenced separately on each count. He will be eligible for parole in 207½ years, although the Nevada Clemency Board could pardon him sooner.

Butler's acrobatic risley act has appeared with virtually all of the major circuses in the U.S. and Europe.

CHARGES FILED

The District Attorney's office in Plainview, N. Y., reports that Marvin Matthow (49) has been arrested and charged with acquiring youngsters for use in pornographic films.

Matthow, who is also known as "Baldy the Clown" has reportedly worked on many national TV shows as well as several local shows.