



Show Fire

An early morning fire, during the first week of February, destroyed the winter quarters of the Willy Hagenbeck Circus in Germany. Two Bengal tigers and an African lion died in the flames which also destroyed the show's 3,200 seat big top. The show's 22 trained horses and six elephants were spared since they were out on a TV engagement at the time.

The fire broke out in an old locomotive repair center which has been used by the circus for some eight years. Despite the efforts of 200 firemen the facilities were completely destroyed.

The Hagenbeck Circus was scheduled to have held its 1977 premiere at Darmstadt on March 2nd. Circus officials estimate the loss will run as high as \$400,000.

STAR INJURED

While attempting to break up a fight between two lions, at the opening of the Hamid-Morton Circus engagement in Topeka, Kansas (Feb. 25) trainer Josip Marcan was attacked by other animals in the arena.

He successfully backed the lions off, getting them into the chute and on their way to the cages before he was rushed to a local hospital.

Marcan was treated for cuts and scratches on his shoulders and arms (requiring about 100 stitches). He has since returned to the show and is presenting his African lions for each performance.



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Paul V. Kaye

HOLLYWOOD ELEPHANTS

Contact

PAUL V. KAYE

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PEOPLE

BOBBY GIBBS, ROWENA and HARRY THOMAS, MANUEL RUFFIN, JOHN CARAVANTAS and EDDIE BACKSTEIN recently visited the Circus Paradiso in Puerto Rico.

BOB SNOWDEN will be producing his annual show dates in New Hampshire next month.

ED MIGLEY, owner-producer of Circus Odyssey, flew his mother and father to San Juan

from Rhode Island to share in his show's opening in Puerto Rico. While there his mother celebrated her birthday.

ANTAR WAZZAN took his family to the Virgin Islands in celebration of Antar Jr.'s birthday earlier this month.

WALT and BARBARA KING will work some Fleckles and Hubler dates before opening their Animaland Park in Michigan. They offer elephants (3), lions (8) and a mixed animal group.

FOR SALE

2 SEAT TRAILERS - 35 ft. and 31 ft. - Bleacher style seating. Takes one man five minutes to unfold after trailer is unloaded. Both trailers are ten rows high. Also have a 10 high set-up of bleachers for one end of the tent, with safety chains, stringers and jacks. Have extra bleachers that attach onto the 35 ft. trailer - also ten rows high.

STAGE TRAILER - Portable 33 ft. - Front side folds down to make a 30 ft. x 16 ft. stage. A section of the floor lifts up to reveal an 8 ft. x 16 ft. trampoline built into the stage. Carries all props, ring curb and rigging. When fully loaded can take up to 10,000 lbs. (All trailers can be hauled by pick-ups).

DODGE Truck - 1974 - 2 ton - 4 speed transmission - 2 speed rear end. Running condition is excellent. 50,000 miles - original 318 engine. Has horse compartment behind cab, also a 15 KW Diesel generator with 125 gal. tank. Also has spool for big top, plus electrical cables and electric arc welder.

BIG TOP - 80 ft. wide and 120 ft. long with a 40 ft. middle - Blue and white vynal coated dacron.

2½ ton INT'L - 1969 - 4 speed transmission - 103,000 miles on original engine has no problems. Has 18 ft. box on back. Box has front compartment with side door, can stack many bales of hay there. We carried an elephant in the truck.

CALLIOPE and Wagon - 8 ft. x 4 ft. not counting hitch - Can be pulled by any vehicle.

MOON WALK - Midway attraction

CONCESSION TRAILER - 33 ft. This is a combination concession and office with ticket window and living space. Lots of holding tanks. Concessions in rear of trailer. Trailer has 3 axles, is 2 years old and in excellent condition. Looks like a normal trailer going down the highway. No weigh station stops if pulled by a pick up or camper. Also have concessions left over from last season.

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ROUTES

HUBERT CASTLE CIRCUS

Mar. 17-20 Spokane, Wash.
17-20 Indianapolis, Ind;

CIRCUS ODYSSEY

to Mar. 20 San Juan, Pto. Rico

CIRCUS VARGAS

Mar. 15-18 Lubbock, Texas
19-21 San Angelo

COLE ALL STAR TV CIRCUS

Mar. 14 Jordan, N. Y.
15 Munnsville
17 Norwich
18 Windsor
19 Candor

GREAT ALL AMERICAN YOUTH

Mar. 11-13 San Bernardino, Cal.

HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS

Mar. 19-20 W. Palm Beach, Fla.

HUBLER'S INT'L CIRCUS

Mar. 16-20 Youngstown, Ohio

RINGLING-BARNUM - Blue Unit

Mar. 15-20 Charlotte, N. C.

RINGLING-BARNUM - Red Unit

Mar. 15-27 Baltimore, Md.

TNT & ROYAL OLYMPIC CIRCUS

Mar. 17-19 Hopkinsville, Kentucky

... OTHER ROUTES ...

KEN GRIFFIN (Magic)

Mar. 14 Alpine, Texas
15 Pecos
17 Kermit
18 Seminole

RBBB HIGHLIGHTS

Mar. 15 - ABC-TV

SPORTS SHOW

Mar. 13-20 Dallas, Texas
17-20 Duluth, Minn.
18-27 Cleveland, Ohio

THIS IS HAWAII ... ON ICE

Mar. 7 Imperial, Calif.
8-10 Yuma, Ariz.
11 Parker
12-13 Lake Havasu City
14 Needles, Calif.
15 Kingman, Ariz.
16 Williams
17-20 Mesa

WONDERLAND ON PARADE

Mar. 14 Brownsville, Texas
15 Uvalde
17 Lamesa
19 Lubbock

The Russell & Robbins Shows, of 1926, toured through Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky. The one ring circus was later purchased by Benjamin McKinley.

NOTICE - There was a recent ad in this publication and several others, advertising a package for sale to collectors, at a price of something close to \$10.00. The address was simply Lewis Bros. Circus Fan Club of Dothan, Alabama.

As legitimate owner of Lewis Bros. Circus, I had no idea this ad was being circulated, and Dothan is in Southern Alabama, where as Bridgeport (our winter quarters at that time) is in the Northern part of the state, near Tennessee.

The ad and address was circulated without my knowledge or consent. ANY PERSON who ordered from this operation, which was operated by The Ex-Rev. Tom Bracewell, of Dothan, Alabama, and did not receive the goods, I suggest that YOU, too, contact the postal authorities!

I hope we had fans, but I was in the Circus business, NOT the Fan Club Business.

John W. Lewis
Lewis Bros. Circus

Miscellaneous

The all-new "This Is Hawaii . . . On Ice" show made its debut before an enthusiastic crowd at the Mid-Winter Fair in Imperial, Calif., on March 7th. The show, which uses a Hawaiian theme throughout also features Dancing Waters as a special part of its production numbers.

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BILLY BARTON....

IF YOU THINK INFLATION hasn't hit the circus, consider that HOXIE TUCKER spent over \$200,000 last season for insurance on his two shows. Add to that the enormous road expenses, winter quarters and it's a minor miracle the tent circus can survive at all. Indeed! The man who takes it out, keeps it afloat and brings it home deserves a medal!

Three days were spent at Hoxie's Miami quarters (where I left truck and trailer) and an excellent opportunity was had to take in the hustle and bustle. Hoxie's big top opens Mar. 19th at Palm Beach, the Great American bows Apr. 2nd at a shopping center in South Miami. Most of the work (at the time this column was written and ALL columns are written 3 weeks in advance) centered around the big show. A fine, new cookhouse, with "fly attached" is currently in use and will be on the road and equipment from Diamond S Rodeo has been re-activated - a light j lant, fork lift, water wagon and office trailer. Remaining equipment, such as a semi loaded with seats, will be stored. Everything is being refurbished for both shows with work details overseen by Hoxie personally. For the first time in a number of years, the master himself takes up the reins and will manage the big show for the entire 1977 season.

Of note is the fact that Hoxie's Big Top will play Hagerstown (Md) under sponsorship of the EMMETT KELLY CFA, an active group that has in the past always sponsored the BEATTY-COLE CIRCUS. The Ape Show, purchased from JOHN BEROSINI, to be featured with Great American, has two very large chimps, one of which actually talks (says "Mama"), a splendid Gorilla, and the largest Orangutan this columnist has ever seen - easily as large as the gorilla, equally as fascinating and bound to be the show's major attention-grabber. Also noteworthy is the news that two former show-owners will be found on Hoxie lots - JOHN LEWIS and RALPH SCHAUPACER (formerly with Diamond S). Ralph will be the Hoxie Bros. Supt., while John will handle a variety of duties. (John has disposed of his Lewis Bros. Circus, details in next week's column).

JACKIE RINEHART (last of the famed Rinehart Family of western performers and the LAST of the GREAT Wild West Concert-Circus Troupes) and I bumped into each other roaming Hoxie's winter quarters. We fell to reminiscing about those days when almost all major circuses carried a wild west contingent.

(And, often, stars, such as TOM MIX, KEN MAYNARD, JACK HOXIE, THE LONE RANGER and TIM McCOY to name a few).

We agreed the time is ripe to revive the format, especially if the unit was flashed to the hilt with lots of girl riders to line up on the hippodrome track and carried a group of Indians. We also agreed that the perfect show to bring back the Wild West Concert, one that draws the kind of consistently huge crowds to create a workable percentage basis, is CIRCUS VARGAS - especially Vargas who prides himself on recreating the circus image as it once was. So Cliff, when you read this, think about it!

NEWS BITS: TOMMY HANNEFORD has legal guardianship of little NELLIE, daughter of the late KAY FRANCIS. It's said that Nellie will one day be another MAY WIRTH - that's how good the kid is!.... REX WILLIAMS has 13 elephants at his Florida quarters, some of which he is training for others....BILLY POWELL, Jr. makes frequent guest shots on TV in advance of Ringling Blue....KIM NORMAN is working the bird act, previously owned by BETTY WOODS and sold to Royal Hanneford....The ANTA WAZZAN Family played West Palm Beach with STEBBINGS... PATTI ANTALEK will not be with the Great American after all....JACKIE RINEHART sold one of his Funny Fords to HOXIE TUCKER....MARY RUTH HERRIOTT, after all these years, climbs back on her cloud swing when she joins FAMOUS HUNT...Hubby JOHNNY, with Ringling Red, sold his 6 horse liberty act to the show....JEAN MICHON, French trainer brought over by JOHN CUNEO, is putting the white tigers together with Siberians and the new act debuts at MARINELAND this summer....MRS. JO LEWIS, of Dixie Bros. Circus, arranged her playdates to dove-tail with JIMMY DOUGLASS' busy schedule. (He handles her dates)...Jimmy sent clown props to Puerto Rico at the last minute and then came down right after the M&M Rochester date to oversee the numbers. Spent an afternoon with our good friend JOHNNY CANOLE who gifted me with a new supply of pens and treated me to lunch. He caught the Vargas opening in Atlanta, confirms reports the show did turn-away biz in cold weather. (Cliff can add Johnny to the Vargas list of ever increasing admirers). Johnny, incidentally, arranged for a mobile "pit show" to be sent to the Vargas show where it is now in operation.

(Continued on Page 8)

Pot-Pourri

Members of the CFA's Felix Adler Tent will be attending the RBBB opening performance at Madison Square Garden, in New York.....ELWOOD & EMILY TALLY are planning on retiring in Florida after spending many years in New Jersey....CIRCUS KIRK veteran MIKE STRAKA is working with PHIL & LINDA CHANDLER on the GEORGE HUBLER dates.MIKE NAUGHTON is now manager of the Westchester Costume Co. at Fuckahoe, N.Y.

.... Mike Naughton

ATTENTION

TUESDAY, MARCH 15 - 8 p.m. - NBC-TV
The annual "Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus Highlights" in color. Gene Kelly will be the host on this special feature offering selected acts from the 1977 edition of "The Greatest Show On Earth."

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PEOPLE

THE GREAT TOMSINI, comedy magician, is featured regularly at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas.

THE RAMANOS, bicycle act; ANTONIO's Poodles and BALDWIN's Charming Chimps are featured with the "America on Ice" show playing at the Sahara Tahoe Hotel thru March 17th. The show then jumps across the Pacific for a six week tour in Taiwan.

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Keeping Active

ARTHUR M. WIRTZ, owner of the Chicago Stadium and the Chicago Blackhawks, recently took full control of both the Holiday On Ice show and Ice Follies and has re-staffed them with his own people.

Wirtz is well known to circus people from the many years he co-produced with the late Chicago Booking Agent Sam Levy, the Barnes Bros. Circus (not related to the Al G. Barnes tent show) which appeared annually in his Chicago Stadium and the Detroit Olympia Stadium, which he co-owned with James D. Norris. He and Norris, along with well known circus personality, Jack Tavlin, purchased Cole Bros. Circus in late 1949, the then second largest circus touring, and on 30 railroad cars for many years. Wirtz headed the helm of the Cole rail show with Tavlin as General Manager of it during its spectacular 1950 season with the then top TV star and former cowboy film star Hop-along Cassidy (Bill Boyd), featured in person. The big tent was the first to appear in all of the major stadiums, arenas and ballparks in the midwest and east and finished the 1950 tour under canvas. The famed Cole title never again toured as a major railroad show after Wirtz closed it in the fall of 1950 and sent it to his then owned St. Louis Arena for storing.

Later the equipment and the train were sold with Frank Orman in Charge. Orman had been Manager in the '49 and '50 seasons while Jack Tavlin was General Manager. Tavlin first purchased the Cole show himself in the late 1948 season from former long-time owner Zack Terrell and operated it himself during the 1949

season, on a cross-country tour which saw heated opposition with Ringling-Barnum most of the season.

After its 1949 Miami, Fla., season's closer, Tavlin wintered the circus at Ojus, Fla. Arthur Wirtz then purchased it and the Cole Bros. train made a record fast run from Florida to its gala Chicago Stadium premiere in April 1950. Continued opposition with RBBB in 1950, saw Cole Bros. following RBBB into many major eastern cities, including New York City, a reversal of the 1949 tour which saw RBBB behind Cole on most of the season's route.

Orman continued on with the Wirtz interests after the final end of the 1950 season and moved the equipment to Peru, Ind., where it was eventually sold off, including the train.

The famed Cole title was later leased to the late Floyd King for use on his King Bros. Circus when it was retitled King Bros. and Cole Bros. Combined Circus in the early 1950's. Later the Cole title was sold to Frank McClosky, Jerry Collins and the late Walter Kernan and they combined it into the Clyde Beatty title, a show title that has been kept continuously since 1957.

McClosky, Collins and Kernan purchased the original Clyde Beatty Railroad Circus, a 15 car show from 1946 to 1956, from Beatty in the spring of 1956 and that year, after RBBB closed its canvas tour abruptly in mid-season and with Cole Bros. off the road, the newly owned Clyde Beatty Railroad Circus was the only railroad circus on tour. In 1957 the Beatty show became a major truck operation.



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SELLOUT

Frazier Mohawk's Puck's Circus appeared at Winnipeg (Man) on Feb. 13th. The 4,400 seat Centennial Hall was completely sold out for the two matinee performances.

Prior to the Winnipeg date, Mohawk completed a short tour for Ian Garden, playing Brandon (Man), Regina and Saskatoon (Sask) with a unit called "Show Biz On Parade". Line-up of talent included: Reggie and Loren, rola bola; Tony and Adam, vent; Great Jones, bike-balance; The Morrells, juggling and Puck's Rent-A-Fool Clown Alley with Mohawk, Mark Farr and Roger Prystanski.

Puck's Canadian Travelling Circus will start its regular season of 22 weeks in Ontario on May 21st.

Safari Park in Puerto Rico is in the process of closing out its wild animal features and is adding new carnival rides.

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PEOPLE

HENRI LaMOTHE, high diver, was a feature attraction at the Sports Show in Oakland, Cal., last month.

BOB EMRICO has his school magic show fully booked in the Pacific Northwest through the first week of April;

JOHN McPEAK, juggler, recently played the Friedrichstadt Palace in East Berlin, then goes to the Red Rose for the month of April, followed by dates at Rotterdam, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Italy.

Sea World Park, also in Puerto Rico, has done away with its performing animal shows.

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

On his office wall, Johnny has a framed letter from a customer late in trailer payments. It's a classic. Quote: "Enclosed find \$100 payment on trailer. Have not sent any before this. Car Blew up. New Engine. Brakes went. Slow. No Dates booked. Rain. Heat. Bad season. To top it all, trailer rolled in New York. Not bad (but) bad enough to cost me \$250. Did not want to turn it in to insurance as did not send payment. Word is still good. I hope to send more (money) to follow." End Quote. Whoever said "Truth is stranger than fiction" got a letter just like that!

See you down the road, luvv.

THANK YOU

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Acts currently appearing with the International Unit of the Globetrotters are: The Patricks, jugglers; The Davisons, rola bola; The Lindens, balancing; Ham & Burger, comedy plate spinners and Chester Cable, foot juggler.

Working with the National Unit of the Globetrotters are: Baroness Von Frost, magic/illusions; Gerard & Mobby, comedy acrobatics and a table tennis champion team.

Both units are now being booked by Simone Finner Enterprises of Hollywood, Calif.

PEOPLE

ALBERT LUCAS, juggler and TERRY HEAD, comedian, received rave reviews for their appearance in the "ICE Capades" when the show played South Bend, Ind.

JOHN MOLINARI, former band leader with the George-Matthews Circus is currently working at the Le Virage Restaurant in Walnut Creek, Calif.

New Publication

The first issue of the "Midwest Clown Association 3 Ring News" is now available. The paper is to be published on a monthly basis, offering ideas, materials, tips and news in an exchange of clown knowledge.

Those interested can subscribe by sending \$1.00 to: Gene Lee, 235 South Summit St., Whitewater, Wisc. 53190.

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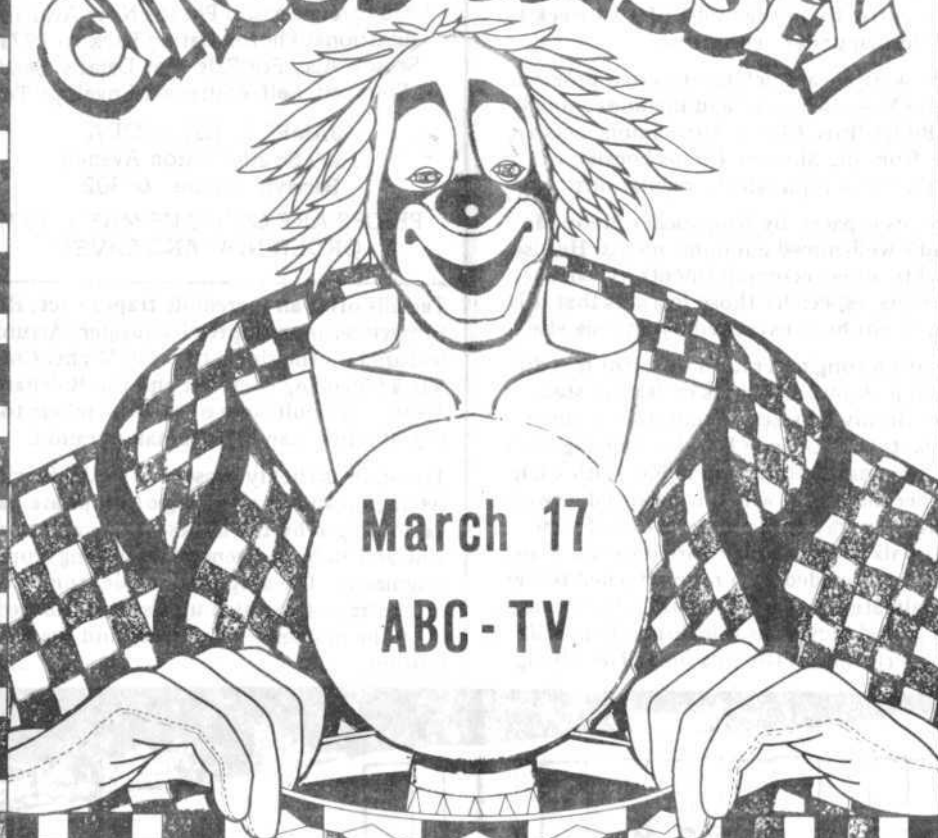
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CIRCUS ODYSSEY



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CIRCUS ODYSSEY will have a special feature spot on the upcoming ABC-TV broadcast (Mar. 17) of the Foreman/Young Fight on "Wide World of Sports" which originates direct from the Roberto Clemente Coliseum in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The circus is currently playing the same building.

VIEW

At three year intervals Michael Edgley has presented the Moscow Circus in Australia, but this year he personally shopped around the world, signing up outstanding acts for what is being billed as "The Greatest Circus on Earth". The show is currently in the midst of a 14 week tour of the "down under" continent.

The show offers a much more varied program than the Moscow Circus and includes animals from Buller Bros. Circus. Such animal acts are absent from the Moscow Circus because of Australia's strict quarantine regulations.

The circus is paced by Ringmaster Philip McDonald's well-voiced announcements. He also highlights some accomplishments by various performers, especially those features that it is said have not been exceeded by anyone else.

With such a conglomeration of talent it is difficult to pick out highlights or feature stars. Werner Bronly whizzes around upside down on his rocket with Elfriede Bronley hanging by his teeth; Rogana climbs a high ladder with a dagger in her mouth on which is balanced a sword holding up a tray containing glasses of wine; Doval, walks across a high wire on stilts; Daisy Bentos is suspended by a rope attached to her hair; Dalmation dogs; Lilly Yokoi, performs on a gold-plated bicycle as it is dismantled; William Rueda performs on the rola bola; The Flying

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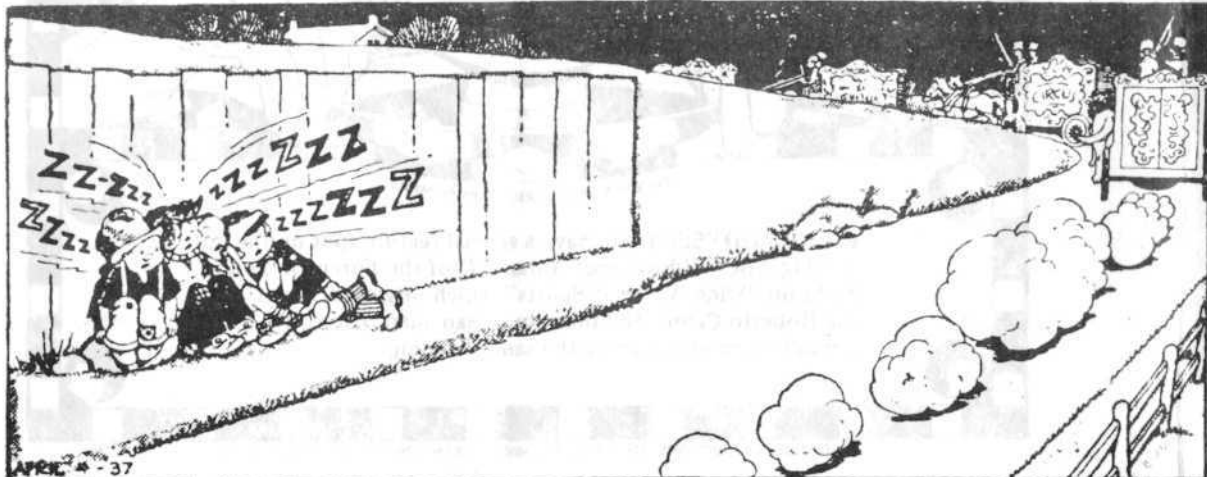
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Terrells offer an incredible trapeze act; Rudi Schweitzer is an impressive juggler; Arturo is featured on the single trapeze; Michel Chen offers a balancing cycle act and the Boichanovi Troupe catapults one of their members to the top of a five man high human pyramid.

The show is slickly presented so the inevitable setting up and dismantling of props are partly camouflaged by the antics of German clowns Jule and Bubi and general ad-libbing from the ringmaster. The amplified music from the small orchestra, setting high up also contributes to both the moments of comedy and dramatic tension.

... S. V.



Classy Show

Circus Paradise, owned and operated by Mexican showman Kimba, is a surprisingly classy little tent show currently playing ten day stands on the island of Puerto Rico. The big top is a 60 with a 30 ft. middle, and is strung with a network of outside colored lights and surrounded by a fence. A concession top fronts the midway. A menagerie top at the rear of the lot houses 5 chimps, 4 lions, 2 tigers, 15 dogs, 2 boa constrictors, 4 ponies, 6 monkeys and a flock of pigeons. The show travels on 3 trucks and 3 trailers with a basic color scheme of red, yellow and blue. All trucks have clown pictorials. A local hauling company is employed to move the tent and seats. No generator is carried since the show ties into the local power source.

The big top interior is flashed up in big-time style. A red curtain, supported by a quartette of poles, masks the cage which extends half into the short side of the big top and half outside where the cages and chutes are. This curtained area is also the entrance for performers. Directly in front of the curtains is the ring which is lighted. In this instance, however, the lighting floods the inner circle, carpeted in red and containing a portable stage. Box seats, flanked by chairs, with stringers behind the chairs form a crescent that was jammed with customers. (Kimba, who is endeavoring to lease an elephant

from Dorey Miller opened his books to Bobby Gibbs and showed an average of six to seven hundred dollars nightly, and twelve to fourteen hundred dollars on Saturdays and Sunday).

Lighting is exceptional. Four quartz towers and hanging light bars with color spots, plus extra lighting for the caged area. Prop men are stationed at attention in front of the curtain wearing uniforms emblazoned with the show's title. Performers' wardrobe is first-class. Music is on tape.

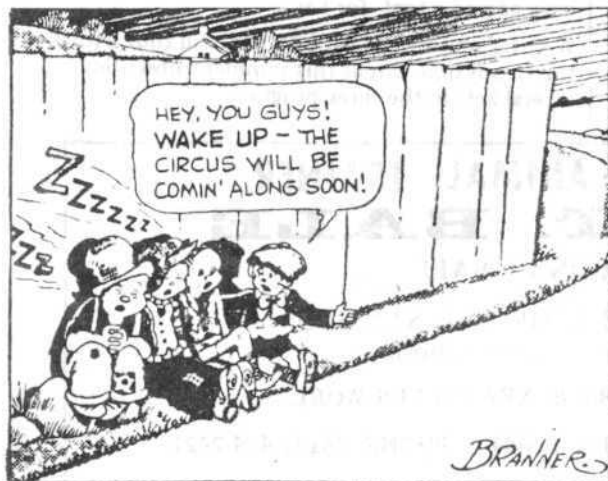
About 14 people make up the performance, featuring Kimba, himself. Stealing the show, however, is the large, almost-human chimp, Toby, who roams freely, accepting voice commands from Kimba with total understanding. The chimp actually sends the lions into the arena, prodding them through the chutes and when Kimba puts his head into the lion's mouth, the chimp does like-wise! It's an incredible performance.

The chimp also baby-sits 12 months old Laura Gualalupe and escorts the child into the ring. The tot, hardly able to walk without the chimp leading her, actually plays with the wild animals and, during the performance, goes up to and embraces the Boa Constrictors. It is an unbelievable scene straight out of an Edgar Rice Burroughs adventure novel.

Two aerial acts, a balance-ladder and single trapeze, were omitted from the program when the male performer was tossed from the big top during a high wind set-up. This fellow also performs as the "Hindu Fakir" but was limping through the performance.

The program features an opening introduction of all performers; sword balance; clowns (2) featuring Pancho; fire eater; snakes with Kimba, Toby the chimp and 12 month old Laura; Pancho & Co.; Toby the chimp; Intermission. A mixed dog act, dress and trick, opens the second half and spotlights a soulful St. Bernard that does comedy; the Fakir and the bed of glass; Pancho's clowns; a top-notch knife throwing act; rola bola and juggling; lions and tigers, presented by Kimba and Toby the chimp, followed by the Finale.

..... B. B.



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Miscellaneous

Circus Vargas will be playing Lubbock, Texas, on March 15-18, while Vince Carmen's Wonderland on Parade show will be in the same city on March 19th,

Performers from the Chinese Festival of Taiwan were guests of Circus Odyssey during a recent Saturday matinee performance.

PEOPLE

HARRY THOMAS has two new tiger cubs, born at San Juan late last month.

DOROTHY HERBERT, retired circus rider, has recently been honored by Michiagn CFA's who have named a tent for her.

WALLY and CZIGI BICKMORE will tour with the Happytime Circus this summer, presenting several acts in the show program.

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