



8th Year

May 14, 1979

Number 20

Tour Gross Up

The 1979 winter tour of Bill Brickle's Wonderland Circus Revue grossed its heaviest profits ever. The show's biggest day was when it played Alston Jr. High School and Sommerville High School, where 2,300 students attended the circus in two performances. Concessions also reported top grosses at this engagement.

The larger and stronger program presented on the tour has been credited with the increase in attendance throughout the tour. The show's program featured: Berwin & Brewster, illusions, magic and fire; Miss Irene Bautista, aerial displays; Bill Brickle and his Poodle Fantasy; Fernando Bautista, balancing and juggling; Phil Sadler, Gary Bearden and Gene Hughes, clowns. Gary also doubled as the show sound man and electrician and served as assistant to Bill Brickle.

The show's date at Orangeburg, S.C. drew overflow crowds and was described as a "banner day". Personnel from the Nordmark show stopped to visit the circus at this engagement, as they were enroute from Columbia to Wilmington, N.C.

The Wonderland Circus Revue will resume its fall tour in November. They will close for the Holidays and then the tour will start

(Continued on Page 8)

Charges Made

Problems have developed over a circus promotion at Cincinnati, Ohio, and suits have been filed against the State Attorney General's Office to stop him from regulating a contract between the Police Association and the promotional team of the circus.

The suit asks for \$600,000 in damages and charges the Attorney General and his charitable foundations

(Continued on Page 14)

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REVIEW

SYRIAN TEMPLE SHRINE . . . by Don Sandman

The 58th annual Syrian Temple Shrine Circus was held April 17-22 at the Cincinnati Gardens. The circus, this year, was produced by Tommy Hanneford and Glenn Parkins. The show's ringmaster was Phil Morris, Al Leonard was vocalist and Wally Jones the producing clown.

The program was as follows: Slide for Life by Ms. Jewel and the Great Huberto; Overture by band, directed by Keith Killinger, with Leo Mascito; Star War Spec; Ada Smieya, wild animals; The Great Bruno, break-away pole; Count de Boxcar Young and his cannon; the Victor Julian dogs; Beeswax, the Mule; Lou Ann Jacob, trapeze with four web girls; Los Latinos, wire; Le Franciscos, teeterboard; Senor Magano, whips; Les Castros, high wire; Spec "Somewhere Over the Rainbow"; Intermission with baton twirling contest; The Flying Gaonas; The Ventura Duo, aerial perch; Clowns; Moore's Madcap Mongrels; Kings Elephants; Hal Haviland's pony; Prince Damoo and Sabu, the uncaged leopard; The Vashek Duo, aerial motorcycle; Parade of circus stars; Hugo Zacchini, the human cannon ball, closing with Flying Flags as a farewell march.

ANTIACH TEMPE SHRINE . . . by Don Sandman

The 37th annual Antiach Temple Shrine Circus was held at Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio, April 17-22. The show was produced by Hubert Castle, with Lucky Larabee, ringmaster/announcer. Les Schlafman directed the band and Al Ross was producing clown.

The show opened with the house lights down and the spotlights picking up the Winn Bros. walking an inclined wire, one up and one down, passing at the center; then came Tarzan Zerbini with 14 lions and 3 tigers; Clowns follow with the sharp shooting gag, then

REVIEW

HAPPY DAVIS who has been involved with electronics for close to three decades, has been signed by the national monthly publication "CB Magazine" to write a monthly feature about scanners and other related articles. He is writing under the pen name of Dave Hanson. His first articles will appear in the Aug. 1979 issue, available in July.

JOE LEMKE's chimps are wearing new and exciting wardrobe created by **GERTIE CRAIG**, of Dallas. She sews for the Music Hall and Opera where her husband **MAX** is a stage hand.

CAROL and "Baby Tarra" appeared in the 'Pioneer Days Parade' at Simi Valley, Calif., last month and also worked the Sports & Leisure Show in Santa Barbara, Calif.

BOBBY STEBBING and the Polack elephants joined the American Continental Circus at Oakland, Calif., on April 27th.

came the Franconi Sisters, double trapeze; followed by Randy and Sylvia, balancing; Veno Venito, swaying ladder; The Lambertis, juggling; Erik Adams, canine stars; Prof. Shappi, comedy piano; Mlle. Jacqueline, trapeze; Timothy & Daniel, rola bola; the Caroline Twins, contortion; Six Ashtons, risley; Lee and Jeanette Keener with the Diano elephants (6); Intermission; The Flying Espanas; Clowns with acrobatics; Miss Lillian, Miss Barbara, Miss Loni, foot juggling; the Adams Chimps; Princess White Cloud, cloud swing; Karl's French Poodles; the Gutis Family, gorilla parody; Erik Acadis, one finger stand; Martin Lamberti, one finger stand; Jolly, equilibrist; the Hernandez Troupe, teeterboard; Finale with the Hans Winn Troupe, aerial motorcycle.

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Big John Strong Circus

May 15 Orange, Calif.
16 Chula Vista
17 San Diego
18-19 San Bernardino

Beatty-Cole Circus

May 14-15 Washington, Pa.
17-20 Camp Hill

Carson & Barnes Circus

May 14 Ft. Collins, Colo.
15 Sterling
16 Kimball, Nebr.
17 Sidney
18 Scotts Bluff
19 Ogallala
20 North Platte

Hubert Castle Circus

May 14-17 Thunder Bay, Ont.
Ont.
14-15 Moose Jaw, Sask.
16 Yorkton
18-19 Swift Current

Circus Genoa

May 12 Clairton, Pa.

Circus Vargas

May 11-14 Monterey, Calif.
15-20 San Jose

Funs-A-Poppin Circus

May 13-17 San Diego, Calif.

Great Amer. Youth Circus

May 18-19 Redlands, Calif.

Hamid-Morton Circus

May 15-19 Pittsburg, Pa.

Happytime Circus

May 18-20 Napa, Calif.

Allan C. Hill Productions, Inc.

present Great American Circus
May 14 Hanover, Pa.
15 York
16 Waynesboro
17 Chambersburg
18 Shippensburg
19 McConnellsburg
20 Windber

Hoxie Bros. Circus

May 15 Harrisonburg, Va.
16 Front Royal
17 Leesburg
18 Martinsburg
19 McLean
20 Clear Spring, Md.

Monte Carlo Circus

May 15-16 Springfield, Mo.
18-20 St. Louis

Moscow Circus

May 16-20 Birmingham, Ala

Pickle Family Circus

May 19-20 Ukiah, Calif.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

May 17-20 Portland, Me.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

to June 3 New York, N. Y.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus

May 14 Logan, Utah
15 Ogden
16-18 Salt Lake City

---- MAGIC ----

Prof. Miller - Magic Time USA

May 17 Reedsville, Ohio
18 Logan
19 Athens

Tom Ogden - Magician

May 15 Canton, Ohio
17 Bowling Green
19 Boston, Mass.

---- OTHER DATES ----

Circus Saints & Sinners

May 17-19 Washington, DC

Clowns, Inc.

May 16 New Castle, Pa.

James H. Drew Exposition

May 14-19 Charleston, W. Va.

Ethel's Greyhounds

May 18-20 Des Moines, Iowa

Greek Festival

May 19-20 Oakland, Calif.

Gutis Family - Jungle Parody

May 14-17 Thunder Bay, Ont
18-20 Des Moines, Iowa



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May 17-18 Portland, Oregon

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May 15-19 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sad Buster - Clown

May 13-15 Port Neches, Tex

Joe Zoppe Family Acts

May 19-20 San Luis Obispo, Calif.

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Billy Barton

THUS FAR escalating gas prices and inflation haven't affected Las Vegas optimism. All hotels seem to be expanding. The Hacienda is scheduled to add a high rise and new hotels include the Barbary Coast on the Strip and Sam's Town on Boulder Highway. In March it was learned the Nevada Gaming Commission took over the Aladdin Hotel.

AT CIRCUS CIRCUS Casino are MICHAEL CHIRRI-RICK, ANETA VARGAS, the STANEKS, back from Europe and doing in addition to teeterboard a comedy turn called HUMPTY DUMPTY; ORESTO, two flying acts, plus the perennial MICKEY HARTZELL.

DRESSING ROOM MYSTERY: KAREN NYCE returned to the lady's dressing room between shows in Buffalo to discover her one-finger device missing. We try to believe the pilfering was not done by someone on the show, but dressing rooms for men and women were side-by-side and in a hard-to-get-to area with only show personnel passing through the halls and doors, so it looks very much like an "inside job". Karen is a sweet, friendly girl and I know I speak for the majority of us who are sincerely sorry about the incident.

JANICE & MIKE ARIA unveiled their new Golden Retriever dog act in Montgomery (Ala) on Garden Bros., said the dogs were unconcerned by lights, music or general hubbub. . . or. . . by Cook's Comedy Car rattling past as they exited from the ring (without leashes). The kids are full of praise for veteran animal trainer LOU REGAN who gave them what amounts to a "full semester of animal training" in a weekend. Remarks Janice: "Lou is very blunt, not not vague or over-complimentary - smart as hell about animals and what we learned from him justified the entire trip," The Arias commented also that IAN and MICKEY GARDEN are one of the most "gorgeous couples" in show business, "enuff to make us all pine for salt and pepper hair!" The Arias will make the second unit tour of 6 weeks for Ian, arranged when Bauer-Hall released them from a previous commitment, and will play the Wallenda dates later this summer which were set by Bauer-Hall.

SNAPSHOTS: FLYING LAR-RAYS will be with Circus Vargas in 1980. . . Did you know that JUAN VASQUEZ fell in the identical location where NANCY GIORDANO fell a year earlier? And at that

spot it was the third such scene of an aerialist falling. The Shriners will no longer permit aerial acts to hang there. . . CHARLIE VAN BUSKIRK creates original jewelry in gold and silver, very elegant and very expensive finely crafter pieces. . . Appearing at that Variety Show in Allen Park (Mich) Apr. 14-15 for SANDY DOBRITCH were DIETER TASSO, MANZINI, CHRIS ALBERTI DUO, and the DEBUTANTES, a singing group. . . Organist JESSIE GRIFFITHS did a three week stint for BILL GARDEN in the South, has a full season of fairs into October, followed by Xmas dates. Jessie went through the elephant ordeal in Decatur and returned to hometown Harrisburg to become embroiled in that nuclear reactor scare. Jessie quipped she had visions of becoming a harp player on a cloud. . . This time it is true. BILL and TRUDY are BACK from Mexico (Thank God).

DAVE MURPHY, PR for two large New York State hospitals, is moonlighting with a vengeance: he had the James M. Cole Circus for two days in Feb., has the Dubsky Royal Palace unit for the first week in June, and booked the Great American for 4 days in late July. . . Clown BRUCE WARNER made the Wichita date for PAUL KAYE. . . VASHEK DUO, LOS LATINOS, made the Cincy Shrine date. . . The writer presented special awards to the TRIO VASQUEZ in the dressing room in New Orleans and, wouldn't you know, irrepressible JUAN ate his. . . NORBU, DUO BERTINI, OLINKA, TINO WALLENDAS ZOPPE, the SCHMITTS, among many, braved the Kentucky mountains for George's 8 days of one day stands. . . The Ice-Circus combination went off OK in Youngstown after a slushy start. Took 30 men over 30 hours to rig the ice rink. The FLYING ESPANAS, FRANCONI DUO, ROMAN and EDDIE SCHMITT were among the non-ice performers. . . BONNIE & CLYDE touring with Int'l All Star. . . IRIS KEPPO and partner doing a new comedy act, I hear. . . BILL SLATER has been prop boss on the Hubler dates. . . MARCELLA (of the Los Latinos) reveals the Monte Carlo Circus is the FIRST circus she has ever been able to sit through in toto - she loved it. Most reports filed by performers, once the show's opening bugs were out, have been excellent. Certainly the French ringmaster appears to be the show's major sensation. . . REYNA

(Continued on Page 13)

Injury Report

GEORGE CASTRO fell while descending the slanted wire at the Shrine Circus in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 18th. He fell about 8 feet to the floor and received a broken wrist and a slight concussion, and is recuperating in Florida. His brother, HERNEY, finished the engagement, working as a single.

JONNY JORDAN, of the "Jordonis" high act is recovering at the Medical Center in Syracuse, N.Y. after being injured during his sponge dive act at the Shrine Circus in Syracuse on April 20th. He suffered a fractured back, broken hip, shoulder and pelvis.

CATHY ENGLISH fell during a practice session in the rehearsal barn at the Carden-Johnson winterquarters in Texas. She received a slight fracture of the spine and planned to return to the circus on Apr. 27.

PEOPLE

MARTHA SUAREZ is watching the family act from the sidelines these days, waiting for an injured knee to heal. In the meantime the Luvas Sisters have been working in the act.

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Flash!

The Cincinnati Gardens (Ohio), which has housed the Syrian Shrine Circus for the past 25 years, has been sold. It has been reported that the new owners plan to turn the building into a warehouse.

Ringmaster Philip Morris, said it was a sad occasion when he blew the whistle for the final time, marking a close to this great arena. "Almost every major circus act in recent history has appeared in this magnificent building," Morris said.

Circus chairman Bill Welch was undecided where they would hold the Shrine Circus next year, but he stated they would continue to have the annual circus "even if we have to buy a tent."



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BOOKS

A VERY YOUNG CIRCUS FLYER by Jill Kremen-tz. Non-fiction published by Knopf 1979 — One of the best ever books. Tato Farfan learned to fly at the age of 4 and is the youngest member of the Flying Farfans with RBBB. A large book, 112 pages, 19 in color. Covers the entire circus, not just the flying act.

ANIMAL FAKES & FRAUDS by Peter Dance. 128 pages about various manufactured ingenious hoaxes which have fooled the public. Includes Barnum's Fee-je Mermaid, the Jackalope, Fur-bearing Trout, Wool bearing trees, etc.

WILD TIMES by Brian Garfield (Fiction). A story about Col. Hugh Cardiff, known as the "King of the Crack Shots" and star of arena shows. He was a sharp shooter, fugitive from justice, Indian fighter, actor, Buffalo hunter, pioneer movie maker, lover of women, etc.

AMERICA'S FORGOTTEN FOLK ART by Fried. A new book by the author of "History of Carousels" concentrating on Tattooing, Side Show fronts, Carousels and other aspects of Folk Arts.

AMERICAN ENTERTAINMENT by June and Joseph Csida. A big book, taken mostly from the pages of "Billboard" magazine. Covers American show business from its inception to the present day.

BLOOD & GRITS by Harry Crews. A series of 17 articles, 3 of which would interest circus fans. One is about a man who spent his life mourning the lynching of the elephant Alice.

SPECIAL

Recently honored by being inducted into the Circus Hall of Fame were: Janet May, aerialist; the Original Wallenda Troupe (Karl, Helen and Herman Wallenda and Joe Geiger); the Mills brothers of Mills Bros. Circus.

Miscellaneous

The Beatty-Cole Circus left Jackson, Miss., just prior to the closing of the last roads in that area, because of the flood situation.

Members of the Dutch CFA organization will visit the U.S. and Ringling-Barnum in New York this month. On May 24-30 the group will be at the Abbey Victoria Hotel in New York City, 7th Ave. at 51st St. (Contact: Alfred Van Maasakkers).

The Karl Wallenda Room at the Showfolks Club in Sarasota has been completed and will soon be dedicated.

TOUR GROSS UP (Continued)
again in January.

Light towers, ring mat and scenic drapes were purchased from Circus Creations of Daytona Beach, Fla. (Jimmy Douglass). Plans for a mini-spec and new wardrobe for the coming tour are already in the planning stages.

The concession department was managed by Jack and Wilma Wrench, with Wilma providing organ music for the circus at some of its bigger dates.

From the Show Lot

... by Jan Joyner

There's been a lot of parties for folks with Circus Vargas so far this season. Then we also had our usual Easter features, including an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Mr. Vargas presented everyone with an Easter Lily.

Tim Bickmore celebrated his 18th birthday with a party in Santa Barbara in late March.

The Lantonys also had a party for Pepe, Freddie and Tony's birthdays.

Ruth and Little John Strong hosted a buffet dinner for Jan, Toby, Tim, the Herriott Family, Sr. Antonio and Bill Biggerstaff. Just prior to this we'd been at a birthday party for Wally Ross. His students at Moorpark College surprised him.

At Easter time our announcer, Joe Pon's mother passed away and Mr. Vargas took over the announcing chores while he was away.

Sr. Antonio has returned to the show after taking Brenda home for a rest and doctoring, for a serious sinus infection.

Recent visitors have included Big John and Sandy Strong, Dave and Judy Twomey and Bones Craig.

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The Circus

Acts working the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus date at Millersville, Pa., on April 22nd were: Raphael and his Poodle Revue; The Christina's, trapeze; Emmett and the Hankie gag; Billy Earl and Henrietta, vent; The Cycling Terrys, unicycles; Emmett, ball and a feather; The Christinos, hand balancing; Miss Tanya, hair hang; The Vasquez Chimps; Emmett and rope gag; O'Brien & Co., slackwire; Emmett and stand on hands gag; The Knops, perch pole; Bonnie & Clyde, musical novelty; Mike La Torres and the elephant "Stonie".

Nancy Kelly, was ringmistress; J. P. Grimshaw was prop boss and Ruth McGuire assisted with props. Music was provided by the Nordmark Int'l Circus Band, directed by Leigh Ketchum.



MICKEY ROUSE, clown, has been named "good will ambassador" for the city of Fayetteville, N. C.

PAUL ROYTER, the touring magician, has rejoined the Philip Morris organization after an absence of several years. Royter will temporarily front the second unit of the stage show "Space Wars" booked by Greater American Corp., of Sarasota, Fla. The tour will run from April 30 to June 17th.

ART BARRETT visited the Shrine Circus in Oakland, Calif., the weekend of April 27-29. He also showed the coloring book that he and GEORGE DaDEPPO are marketing.

HARRY JENKINS, organist, celebrated his birthday on April 24th. Harry lives in San Diego and has toured with many shows and also worked at the Circus Hall of Fame.

WIREGARDS Machine Shop made the rolling globe rigging, consisting of ramp, teeterboard and stairs, for the All American Youth Circus. It will be used for the first time this month.

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M&M

TANGIER SHRINE CIRCUS . . by Bill Galloway

The M&M Circus Internationale continued its 1979 season at Omaha, Nebr., April 17-22, for the Tangier Shrine Temple. The eleven performances drew good crowds. This was the 50th year for the circus and extensive press coverage was given the show. The Omaha Sunday World Herald had two full pages in the Entertainment section. Several TV and radio interviews were given each day for both Omaha and Council Bluffs stations. A parade was included in the promotion on Tuesday morning and M&M will return for the 1980 circus.

Visitors included: C. C. Goodall, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Day, Dr. Roland Gibbs, Mark Anthony and Iko Robinson, all CFA members.

The program line-up included: Circus overture, directed by Boom Boom Browning; Spec "Holiday Hulabulu" created by Circus Creations; Jorge Barreda, lions; Mr. Sensation, aerialist; Poppino & Co., low wire (Carlos Obando, Brenda Galloway); Display with The Juggling Jewels (Youngs) and the Navarro Family, unicycles; Ethel's Leaping Greyhounds (Jennier); Gee Gee Engesser, liberty ponies; Clowns and the Big Bug; Display with sword balancing, Bridget & Fifi (Ethel Jennier) and Mafalda; Perch act with the Carlos Duo (Obando, Galloway); The Dolly Sisters (Navarros), aerial cradle; Jo Ann & Sunny, seal; The Great Joselite, high wire.

After intermission were: The Flying Lanes; Clowns and Big Heads; James Zoppe Family riding act; The Clowns with Acupuncture; The Young Troupe, trampoline/teeterboard; Ceasar, the Unrideable Mule; Aerial display with 10 web girls and featuring Miss Aerialetta, single trapeze; Gee Gee Engesser, elephant act; The Sensational Leighs, Space Wheel.

The show's staff consisted of: Grace McIntosh and Charles Marine, producers; James Douglass, announcer; Boom Boom Browning, band director; Manuel

Show Report

FRANZEN BROS. . . . by Almond Knight

Franzen Bros. Circus played Waverly, Tenn., on Apr. 18th. They came in on Tuesday the day before and stayed until Sunday before leaving. During the lay-over they painted everything.

Wednesday night for the first show they had a full house and the second show was a 3/4 house. They had another show the following night with a fair turn out.

The show carries 33 animals, moving it all on two semis and one straight bed with two pick-ups pulling 5th wheel trailers.

The band, organ and trumpet, are next to the backdoor with a beautiful set in red entrance for the animals and performers. The show starts on time, and a program is sold.

The program included: Cat act; Plate Spinning; Pick out horse; Juggling; Llama and Camel; Magic; Trained goats; Tight rope; Donkey act which features Wayne's 4 year old son; Clown and balloon; Elephant; Dogs; Balloon give away for color book winners; and a finale with 12 ponies in a liberty act.

Wayne handles all ten of the animal acts himself. A Miss Deborah who does the trapeze did not work her two acts here. Paul Niebauer is ringmaster and trumpet player, and does the magic. The organist is Phil Shear, while Freddie is the clown.

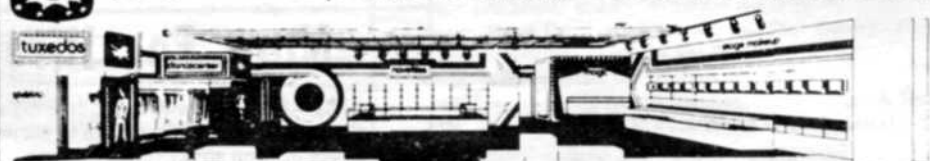
Navarro, prop boss; Esther and Raquel, aerial directors; Spec Wardrobe by Circus Creations of Daytona Beach, Fla.

Clown Alley included: Vern Woerner, producing, with Bobby Davis, Rick Legg, David Chabirra and Gene Hughes.



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SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

Word received from a very reliable source states the Ringling Blue date at Ft. Worth, Texas (July 12-15) has been cancelled due to a disagreement with the Convention Center. The open time may be added to Dallas. This same source also says that advertising for the Moscow Circus at Ft. Worth was very light. The Moscow Circus will wind up its tour at Charlotte, N.C.

Both Barton and Campbell have mentioned that Circus Vargas is going to a six pole top next year. But Charlie goes Billy one better by saying the big circus will go out on rails.

Just finished reading the book by Hans Brick 'The Nature of the Beast' which was a gift from Tex Dreyfus. It is well worth reading and helps to increase my admiration of animal trainers. Hans states there are only two kinds of tigers "dangerous and very dangerous". The book covers training of bears, cats, hoof animals and many other species. After reading it you will gain some new insight and respect for those who enter the big cage.

Dot and Cliff Day, CFA and former circus owner, have returned to their summer home in Omaha, after spending the winter in the Valley of Texas. They paid a visit to Heritage Village where Bubba Voss has 150 of his old lithos on display. They caught the M&M Circus in Omaha and said there were some top

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Announcement

The new address for Mr. Nino Santos is:

Mr. Nino Santos
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Please restate any recent offers that may have been sent to his old address.

acts there. The Days own the title "Cooper Bros."

The German Democratic Republic (East Germany) has issued a set of circus stamps. The four this writer saw featured a pyramid act, elephant, horse and polar bear. They were first released in East Berlin in Sept. 1978 and the First Day covers were stamped with a Clown Head postmark. (Ringling Red Unit program pictures some circus stamps of the world).

Harold Causey visited Beatty-Cole at Jackson, Miss. and says the lot was a tight one. In the evening the tent was full despite the threat of the flood. He says he counted 13 elephants on the show and that they had two spool trucks.

The St. Petersburg Times (April 2) ran a full page story with a drawing of Weary Willie and Emmett Kelly, who was buried on that date. It was a stirring tribute to the man. A telegram sent to his wife Evi, from Red Skelton said, "I guess the angels needed a laugh."

It has been noticed by this writer that most British clowns are of the Auguste type, rather than white face, though some use the tramp make-up and some the Charlie Chaplin style. Some use almost no make up at all. The clown of the Moscow Circus does not use makeup.

A note of interest to American circus authors: The fan's magazine in Britain "King Pole" has a page devoted to reviews of circus books. Some of the latest mentioned were Great Circus Street Parade, Logistics of the American Circus and I Loved Rogues.

A new twist from Circus Apollo who advertises "We

(Continued on Page 13)

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SAWDUST TRAIL (Continued)

are not the biggest, but we are the best." They have an elephant that can carry up to eight people, what's so unusual? Well this elephant is a mechanical one called "Bionic Elephant". It is full size, walks and is used to give people rides.

The new CFA roster is out and one of the best ever. It was compiled by Allen Duffield and his staff. Then CMB's magazine was mailed April 12th and got fast delivery, at least in the east.

Father Robert A. Dagwell, Chaplain of the CFA will be honored on May 27th with a special mass and a dinner in McGehee and Dumas, Ark. The mass will commemorate the 25th anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood of Father Robert A. Dagwell and will be held at St. Mary's Church in McGehee, Ark. That night at Dumas a dinner will be held. Fans from all over the nation have been invited. This writer and his wife will be unable to attend, but we offer our fondest congratulations to Father "Bob" Dagwell.

Members of the Robbins Bros. Ring CMB and Harold Barnes Tent CFA, have set up a "Circus Exhibition" called "Under the Big Top" at the Springfield (Ohio) Art Center. The exhibit is being displayed April 24 to May 13th.

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

(meaning Queen in Spanish) VASQUEZ spent four months in the USA with her sons. Their father is a musician with Circo Vasquez in Mexico where there are even more Vasquez boys and girls.

DEEP WATER: RAY HARTZELL scuba dives in the moat half-mooning the stage at Busch Gardens (Williamsburg, Va.) for relaxation and thereby hangs a waterlogged tale. Seems scuba diving yields a bonus - coins tossed in the moat by spectators. One day last summer as Ray bobbed up from the depths, lucre in hand, the Entertainment Director wandered by and informed Ray that money belonged to the park. Floating in righteous indignation, Ray fixed the director with a shark-eye and rebutted coldly: "Then let the park go down twelve feet to get it!"

BLACK MARK: A certain Shrine Temple and its members (and members' friends) set a very poor example recently when they crowded the backstage area, at every performance, with glasses of booze and bottles of beer in hand. These imbibers also jammed the only entrance and exit to the arena creating hazards for performers, animals and prop crew. If these rollickers MUST turn their annual Shrine Circus into a neighborhood bar, it seems their carousing could be done in a room far removed from the public eye. Only drunks can tolerate other drunks, Shriners or not!
SEE you down the road, luvs.



ANN and ORESTE CANESTRELLI and their horses are with Circo Atayde in Mexico.

DANNY CASTOLDI, CHUCK CRAW, KARL KRAUSE and SCOTT FLOYD performed juggling, hand balancing and juggling, plus clown stunts for the Harris Co. department store circus-themed style show presented in several Southern California cities. Bookings were handled by Warren C. Wood & Associates.

ADEN and VELMA LOWRY, of Sedan, Kans., who received national publicity this month as a result of interviews about their circus collection, are visiting their daughter and her family in Southern California.

VINCE CARMEN, illusionist on tour with the Acurama show in South America, is featuring the "Vanishing Girl on the trapeze" illusion.

CARLOS and CAROL OBANDO are the parents of a baby boy born on April 19th at Rochester, N.Y. The new arrival weighed in at 8 lbs. and is 20 in. long. They've named him Carlos Manuel Obando II.

MAIL BAG

..... from John Armstrong

In your April 2nd issue, the "In Memoriam" item about Will Masten had one error, the statement that he formed the Will Masten Trio in 1936. It was much earlier.

The week of Aug. 3, 1929, I was one of the "Rix-fords", a hand balance and tumbling act and we were working in Detroit, Mich., at the Oriole Terrace supper club and the Will Masten Trio were on the same bill. Their act was Will Masten, Sam Davis and Sammy Davis, Jr. At the time little Sammy was announced as being 4 years old, but he was such a terrific performer we all thought he might be a 30 year old midget.

Also on the bill was Johnny Sanna who did a comedy act finishing with an acro dancing routine in a monkey suit and makeup.

So the formation of the Will Masten Trio must have been more like 1928 instead of 1936. Sammy, Jr. is now 54 years old.

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CHARGES FILED (Continued)

division overstepped its legal authority by attempting to regulate a contract between two private parties. At the heart of the association's suit is the contention that neither it nor the promotional organization has ever represented itself as a "Charitable Trust" or a "Charitable Organization" as defined by the statutes. The Attorney General's Office disagrees.

For many years the local Police and Fire associations have used an out-of-state promoter and circus to raise funds for a variety of purposes. Last December the Attorney General's office filed a suit to freeze funds being raised for a Christmas Variety Show in Dayton. The Attorney General charged a major portion of the funds being raised would go to pay expenses and only a small percentage would go to the intended charitable program.

The language of the contract specifies that they will not represent themselves as charities, says Lawrence Pratt, assistant attorney general. "However," he added the "facts on their face indicate otherwise." He cited the solicitations used at previous times by the promoter. "When you ask someone to buy a ticket for something like this and tell them that if they don't intend to use it a needy child will, if that's not charitable intent, I don't know what is." Pratt says his office has similar cases against the same promoter pending in Columbus and Toledo.

A representative from the Police Association says his organization has always gotten a fair share of the proceeds from the circus promotion. "The show has always been decent and well-run. We've been happy with what we've gotten from the shows. They've provided good, clean family entertainment for this area." He said the association got \$12,000 from last year's circus promotion, but he didn't know what the total amount was that had been taken in, nor does he know how many tickets were sold.

ACTS

The program to be presented by the Great All American Youth Circus at Redlands, Calif. (May 11-19) will include: Grand Spec, Shoot-Through Ladder, Circus Acrobatics, Single Trapeze, Rolling Globes, Side-by-Side Trapeze, Trampoline and Double Mini Tramp, Cloud Swing, Clowns at King Arthur's Court, Balance Perch, Artistic Bicycle, Webs, Teeterboard, Intermission, Double Wide Low Casting, Hand Balancing, Tight Wire, Cradle, Clowns, Cannon, German Gym Wheel, Juggling, Double Cradle (advanced aerial), Unicycle (Beginning, Advanced), Multiple Trapeze, Flying Trapeze.

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PEOPLE

GARY FRANK, who manages the CHUCK JONES Magic Enterprises, works as Chuck's second unit to play shopping centers, fairs and industrial shows.

CHARLIE BENNETT, Jr. reports he visited Carson & Barnes Circus at Arkansas City, Kans., on April 24th, where the show played to near capacity houses.

RICHIARDI's Magic Show in New York City was closed last month when the tax collector padlocked the theatre.

DINO & ANITA, tightwire stars, have been asked to appear at the Monte Carlo Circus Festival at the end of the year.

KARL and SHEILA WINN, high wire acts; BILLY BARTON, aerialist; LANI IRONBERG, pony/dogs; LAWRENCE GRANT, wild animals and BOB-O the Clown have been signed to appear with the Shrine Circus in San Francisco the weekend of May 4-6.

HAL HAVILAND Sez:

CHARLIE VAN BUSKIRK of the wonderful Cy-clonian unicycle act relaxes between shows by hunting ducks in the lake country of central New York State. You might say he combines sport with necessity, his hunting activities fighting inflationary food prices for his large family.

Charlie's hunting dogs are the smartest. He has 3 and each one watches a different lake for ducks. The way they tell him about ducks on each lake is super, too.

One day his first dog found Charlie and tapped his paw once. "That means one duck on that dog's lake". Pretty soon the second dog found Charlie and tapped his paw twice. "That means two ducks on that dog's lake." Then, the third dog showed up with a stick in his mouth, shaking his head. Immediately, Charlie grabbed his gun and started for the lake, "I'm going hunting, that means more ducks than you can shake a stick at."



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