



8th Year

April 16, 1979

Number 16

Elephants Stampede

Three young elephants stampeded during a performance of the Zohak Grotto Circus at Decatur, Ill., on March 31st, injured several people and ran through the city streets. The elephants reportedly ran across the gym floor, site of the circus performance, rammed through some outer doors, down several steps and then off into the city.

There were conflicting reports in the media as to what had caused the stampede and what happened afterwards. Even the number of injured people and the extent of their injuries varied, depending on which report you read.

One story said the elephants stampeded when a teenage boy swatted them with a broom. That story said the boy had been arrested and charged with reckless conduct.

Another story stated the elephants had stampeded when they became confused after getting out of sequence as they waited for their turn in the center ring. Still another report said that an explosion set off during a clown act had frightened the animals into running off.

Several people were injured, including a

policeman. One young girl was treated at a local hospital for a broken collarbone. A man was released from the hospital after being treated for minor injuries, and two women were admitted with multiple fractures.

Two of the elephants were cornered and brought under control in a school playground about nine blocks away from the circus. The other animal was subdued by a tranquilizer dart shot by an animal control officer. It was then chained to a truck and guided back to the circus.

(Continued on Page 15)

REPORT

NILE TEMPE SHRINE CIRCUS . . by Mike Sporrer

Billed as the 35th annual Nile Temple Shrine Circus, and after an absence of 10 years (1969-78) in which they used Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus, the Shrine returned to its own promotion.

Featured this year was the Hubert Castle Circus. Business during the four day run at the Seattle Center Coliseum (Mar. 22-25) was weak. Reliable reports indicated a big advance sale and many free kids tickets were given away by the Shrine, paid for by the local merchants.

Newspaper ads first appeared a week ahead of the circus and tickets were available only at the Shrine office. This no doubt cut down on the advance sale and there was no circus program book, making it difficult to cover the show in detail.

The program here ran as follows: Color book sale by Gene Randow; Ed Russell, ringmaster; National Anthem; Overture with circus band leader Prof. Clement E. Toca; Rodriguez Troupe, aerial bars; Sheila Winn, slide for life; Larry Allen Dean, 3 lions and 6 tigers; Clowns with Mike Padilla, Gene Randow and Lee Marx in The Strong Man; Aerial Cradle; The Glorions, hanging perch; Cradle; Boomer & Co., the boxing kangaroo; Derrick Rosaire and Tony the Wonder Horse; Lee Marx, juggling; The Rodriguez, perch pole; Juggling; Christine's Chimps; Aerial Ballet with 8 webs; Sally on single trapeze; the Maple Grove Riders; Miss Elliott, dressage; the Marhal camels and llamas; Clown Levitation number; Globe balance; Trampoline; Globe Balance; The Flying Ray Lunas; Doug Ashton and Sally, musical comedy; Arturo Segura, bounding rope; Irene, Tonga & Co., gorilla parody; Ron & Mitzi, iron jaw; Rodriguez, hair hang; the Mario Mad Hatters, jugglers; Gary Thomas, elephants (5); Karl and Sheila Winn, aerial motorcycle.

Miscellaneous

SLOAN's "Black and White Refined Jubilee Minstrels." started its four month tour of the west coast last month, opening on March 20th.

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PEOPLE

RANDY RUNYON presented his "Dante's Disco Revue" at a night club in Grants Pass, Oregon, on April 5-6-7:

AL PERRY, of the Washington, DC., Zoo was a recent visitor at **MORGAN BERRY's** ranch in Woodland, Wash.

LOUIS KNIE and 3 elephants and 3 tigers are pictured in the book "The Love of Elephants."

THE GREAT JUNIOR HORTOBAGYI's teeterboard act will be playing dates for the Sam T. Polack Circus this season.

JOHN and **RUTH OWEN** are touring with the Hoxie Bros. Circus this summer. John is the show's superintendent and Ruth is in charge of the Cardiff Man Exhibit.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is compiled and edited by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. - 94530. Phone: (415) 525-3332.

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SHOW DATES

Carson & Barnes Circus

Apr. 16 Kingfisher, Okla.
17 Anadarko
18 Mangumo
19 Altus
20 Elk City
21 Clinton

Hubert Castle Circus

Apr. 17-22 Dayton, Ohio
17-22 Sioux City, Iowa

Circus Vargas

Apr. 10-12 Vallejo, Calif.
13-15 Napa
16-18 Marysville
19-22 Stockton

Franzen Bros. Circus

Apr. 19 Lacombe, Fla.

Hamid-Morton Circus

Apr. 16-21 Wilkes-Barre, Pa

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Apr. 16 Waycross, Ga.
17 Douglas
18 Jessup
19 Warner Robins
20 Milledgeville
21 Augusta
22 Fort Gordon

Kaye Continental Circus

Apr. 19-22 Wichita, Kans.

M & M Circus

Apr. 17-22 Omaha, Nebr.

Monte Carlo Circus

to Apr. 22 Chicago, Ill.

Moscow Circus

Apr. 18-22 Ft. Worth, Texas

Sam T. Polack Circus

Apr. 20-22 Duluth, Minn.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

to Apr. 22 Washington, DC

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

to June 3 New York, NY

Royal Hanneford Circus

Apr. 17-21 Cincinnati, Ohio

Royal Lichtenstein Circus

Apr. 16-17 Buffalo, NY
18 Geneseo
19 Rochester
20 Oneonta
21 Syracuse

John Strong Circus

Apr. 16 Blyth, Calif.
17 Cochella
18 Lamont
19 Madera
21 Manteca
22 Tracy

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

Apr. 10-14 Mesquite, Texas
17-21 Burlington, Iowa

---- MAGIC ----

Annual Salute to Magic

Apr. 21 New York, NY

Harry Lorayne Magic Lecture

Apr. 17 Chicago, Ill.

Magic Time USA - Prof. Miller

Apr. 16 Chambersburg, Pa.
19 Purcellville, Va.
21 Front Royal

Manzini Escapeology Show

Apr 18-22 Bermuda, Mich

Tom Ogden - Magician

Apr. 23 East Orange, N.J.

Paul Royter - Magician

Apr. 19 Idaho Falls, Idaho
20 Jackson, Wyo.

---- OTHER DATES ----

James H. Drew Exposition

Apr. 16-21 Salisbury, NC

Ethel's Greyhounds

Apr 17-22 Omaha, Nebr.

Gutis Family - Jungle Parody

Apr. 17-22 Dayton, Ohio

Holiday On Ice - Int'l Unit

Apr 19-22 Jackson, Miss.

Holiday On Ice - Nat'l Unit

Apr 17-22 Jacksonville, Fla

Ice Capades - Eastern Unit

Apr 18-29 Los Angeles, Calif

Ice Capades - Western Unit

Apr 18-22 Phoenix, Ariz.

Ice Follies

Apr. 18-22 Billings, Mont.

Jo Ann & Sunny - seal act

Apr. 17-22 Omaha, Nebr.

Kaye Hollywood Elephants

Apr. 19-22 Wichita, Kans.

Los Latinos - wire act

Apr. 16-22 Cincinnati, Ohio



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Apr. 17-22 Omaha, Nebr.

John MacKay - clown

Apr. 20-22 Duluth, Minn.

Nerveless Nocks - sway poles

Apr 20-22 Duluth, Minn.

Ed Russell - ringmaster

Apr. 17-22 Sioux City, Iowa

Showtime Follies

Apr. 16 Waynesboro, Pa.

White House in Miniature

to Apr. 22 Memphis, Tenn.



THIS WEEK - April 18 - NBC-TV is unveiling a new documentary series called "Real People" and will feature a 15 minute segment on CLIFFORD VARGAS and Circus Vargas. Be sure to catch it.

HAVING introduced ten "first-time-ever" events to major league baseball, BAUER-HALL are initiating an eleventh such gambit for the Philadelphia Phillies pre-game show on Thursday, July 5th at Philadelphia's Veteran Stadium when Fantasy On Ice will be presented. This is a skating production incorporating a thermoplastic skating surface. BILL HALL advises the icer will be a major part of the Phillies' Winter Wonderland Christmas in July Spectacle which also includes the Greater Overbrook String Band clad in giant snowflake and icicle costumes whose leader will represent a lighted Christmas Tree. Usherettes will be decked out as elves and the "star" attraction will be Santa Claus. Plans call for Christmas stockings to be distributed to those youngsters accompanied by adults.

OTHER big league clubs have expressed an interest in this novel promotion and are expected to follow suit in 1980. The agency's involvement with ball teams came about with the late KARL WALLENTA's sky-walk over the stadium on Aug. 13, 1972. Since that time other features have been HUGO ZACCHINI, DAVID MERRIFIELD, the NERVELESS NOCKS, Human Bomb BENNY KOSKE, as well as the recreation of Paul Revere's "ride" from Boston to Philly for the 1976 Bicentennial, a massive fly-out of doves to salute home-run-champion HANK AARON, a sky-cyclist team, and racing ostriches and camels. The ball team also plans a massive "Circus Night" promo set for the pre-game show on Aug. 26th when the Houston Astros will be the visiting competitors. It appears the Bauer-Hall agency is batting 1000 no matter how you look at it!

SNAPSHOTS: Believe it or not ex-clown DAVID CHABIRA is now doing a breakaway sway pole act which is quite a sudden transition and, what's more he somehow managed to keep the whole thing a se-

cret. His ex-partner BRUCE WARNER inherited a tidy sum of money when his grandfather died recently (the way expenses rise in this business he'll need it)... Producer/Promoter TOMMY BENTLEY was laid up for over a week in March with a badly swollen knee, a recurring discomfort originating from a fall he experienced years ago during a resinback act when he tumbled and struck his leg against the ring curb. Bentley Bros. Circus will appear under the GEORGE HANNEFORD big top when the show repeats its annual Firemen Circus date in Cincinnati on July 12-15... JOE BAUER and BILL HALL report the discovery of an all-black tumbling troupe of mixed sexes that features five acrobats successfully completing forward double somersaults. "I once thought Arabs were the fastest tumblers until I saw this group observes Hall, adding that the troupe is already set for an important European booking this winter... BENNY (the Human Bomb) KOSKE headed for El Salvador to blast off at a Central American amusement park Mar. 10-11. The Bomb has also fitted grand-opening explosions into his schedule which accommodates 84 different lumber company grand openings nationwide. Now, that's what I call scattering oneself on a large scale... (Bookings were of course handled by Bauer-Hall).

CLIFF VARGAS reports that business in California has been the greatest it has ever been. The show has NOT had one losing week since it opened and THAT, kiddies, is direct from the "horse's mouth"... FRANK CURRY is lending his promotional genius to the new Garden Bros. format which will be revealed soon. Frank was once affiliated with RBBB. Meanwhile the Circus Flea Market, now operating in Georgetown (Ont) and which was inaugurated this past winter has mushroomed into a dizzying triumph and which has been a super-surprise to everyone connected with it.

COLLECTORS of Circus Books will be interested to

(Continued on Page 13)

Show Report

Tent Troupe, the only traveling summer tent theatre in America, will take to the road for its 10th anniversary season in June. The Troupe is one of the special summer programs offered by the Youth Ministry of Saint Luke Luthern Church in Silver Springs, Md.

Since 1970 the church-sponsored group has been giving senior high youth a unique experience in theatre and living on the road as a self-supporting unit. Modeled after the old Chautauqua tent shows, the Troupe plays one day stands which are sponsored dates by civic organizations, churches, newspapers, or parks and recreation departments. Two performances are offered daily which include a children's matinee and a dramatic production for adults in the evening.

Performances are presented under a 60 x 90 big top. Two auxiliary tents serve as costuming areas and a cookhouse. Three rented trucks carry canvas, props, concessions and the electrical department.

The high school students apply for this special experience each year. Each must submit a written application, character references, and attend a screening interview. Usually, 18 are selected and rehearsals begin in April for the mid-June season opener.

The all volunteer staff includes Pastor David, the

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founder and director of the Troupe; Paul Bruening, technical director; Roney Shawe, drama director; Ellen Shaheen, dining dept.; Joe and Doty Wiebush, concessions; David Rutland, lights and sound; Les Olinger, house manager; and Eric Rock, advance.

The members of the troupe must raise their own financial support each summer. Several major fundraising events are held in the spring including sponsoring circuses in the suburban Washington, DC area.

During the nine years the Troupe has been in existence it has appeared in 15 states, and more than 130 towns. Matinee performances have included such shows as Cinderella, Snow White, The Wonderful World of Hans Christian Andersen, to name a few. Evening performances have been the Miracle Worker, Diary of Anne Frank, Lilies of the Field, and Johnny Belinda. Many circus fans visit the show each year and they are always welcome.

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Show Report

Franzen Bros. Circus starts its 1979 tour today (Apr. 19) at Lacoochee, Fla. The show is expected to stay out until late fall. The circus is moving on 3 semis and 2 straightbed trucks and they have a new combination office/concession trailer.

The circus program will be featuring Wayne Franzen with 3 lions and 2 tigers and also Chief Standing Tall with his military pony drill. Numerous other acts are also on the bill.

The side show is managed by Paul Neibausa and Phil Shear.

The Circus

THE CIRCUS . . . by Hunt Bushnell

I spent a delightful day under canvas on Mar. 25th at Pasadena (Calif.) next to the Rose Bowl, where the Junior League of Pasadena was sponsoring The Circus, a Gatti Production. Prior to show time I was able to visit with some of the acts.

The tent was put up by the local sponsor as The Circus is an indoor show with no canvas of its own. The tent had square ends and no quarter poles and had been built as a banquet tent. The show looked great under the tent, but for a circus fan it took a minute or two to get used to this top.

They sold a beautiful circus program with many fine color photos. Some of the acts I saw in the show included: Marcan the Magnificent, lions; Ken Willer, one finger stand; Lemke's Chimps; The Young Duo, high cradle; The Wilson Duo, in the air; The Hargitas, jugglers and teeterboard; Drake's African Ensemble; the Fara-Mia Duo, high cradle and web; Bill Brickle's Poodle Fantasy; the Suarez Riding Troupe; the Guerrero's high wire act; the Flying Wilastons, flying trapeze, plus several clown numbers and Murray Hill

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PEOPLE

THE WIRENGARDS are busy building a break-away swaypole for their son Ben.

JERRY BEEMAN, is planning to stay at home this season, rebuilding his strength and to rebuild new equipment for his Coronos Rocket act.

JIM PARKER, clown with Circus Vargas, has been hospitalized at the Watsworth VA Medical Center in Los Angeles, Calif., after he suffered a stroke.

ARTHUR ZANDER, of Cheyenne, Wyo., writes he is a magician who appreciates all the magic show news in Circus Reports and hopes it will be expanded soon.

Dr. DAVID REID, of Lebanon, Ore., writes he visited John Strong's Circus last month in Yucaipa, Calif. then caught the American Continental Circus at its Albany, Ore., date. He also caught the Hubert Castle Circus at Portland, Ore.

ED FREEMAN has completed a trade show date with his magic act. Now he has a string of dates set to appear for the Wayne Feed Co. in the mid-west.

with the circus elephants. The show was well paced by the singing ringmaster John A. Miller, while the music was directed by Herb Miller.

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REVIEW

MONTE CARLO CIRCUS . . . by George DaDeppo

It sparkles!! It Glitters!! It Gleams!!

The new Festival International du Cirque de Monte Carlo Spectacular is full of thrills, chills, joy and laughter.

From the moment the house lights dim to the glorious finale march the performance projects classic elegance.

Performance director Mike Gorman manages a smooth paced performance in spite of the intricate property moves.

It was in Toledo, Ohio (Mar. 28) that I first witnessed this fresh new approach, being offered on the American circus scene.

From the moment ringmaster/announcer Sergio opens the show, singing "Monte Carlo" he has the audience in the palm of his hand. This debonair performer, with his charming french accent, adds new significance to the role of ringmaster with his friendly manner, witty conversation and inter-action with the audience.

What impressed me most was that it is a happy show the performers enjoy what they are doing and the audience reacts to this - hence - standing ovations wherever they perform.

The band is outstanding - real circus music and perfectly keyed to each act.

The European clowns captured the hearts of young and old and had the audience with them every minute they were on.

From the concession stands in the lobby, manned by uniformed vendors, to the gold braided trim on



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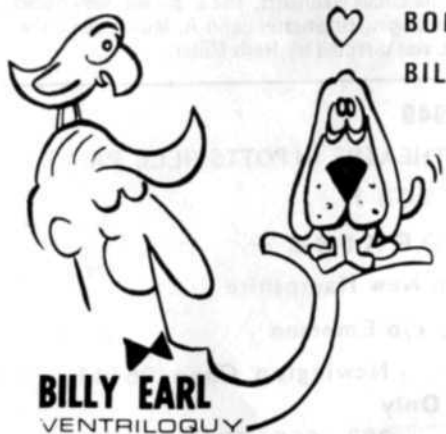
Miscellaneous

Officials at the San Francisco Zoo were reportedly embarrassed when they found their elephant 'Taji' was a male and not a female as was first thought. The animal's sex was discovered after it had been shipped to Jacksonville, Fla. for mating purposes.

Several people were injured when three elephants stampeded during a circus performance at Decatur, Ill. late last month.

Home Box Office TV reportedly will show a special called "Circus" sometime this month. The film is narrated by Tom Bosley and includes footage on Hugo Zacchini, human cannonball; Karl Wallenda and many other circus greats.

the red coats of the property men, everything connected with the show is done with style. The background and ring curbing is magnificent, as is the velvet draped boxes. It all adds to that classic European touch.



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CR'S MAGIC REPORT

MAGIC.....by STU MILLER

Andre Kole's "World of Illusion" show played the university in Tampa, Fla. on Feb. 27 and was attended by Ward Hall, Joe Eddy, Roy Huston, Richard Voss, Ralph Greenwood and yours truly. His show has some very original ideas and is well presented.

The big social event in Gibsonton, Fla., this winter was Roy and Susan Huston's wedding which was staged and choreographed by Ward Hall and took place at his home. A champagne party followed and was enjoyed by the newlyweds, plus Ward Hall, C. R. Christ, Pete Terhune, the Dick Johnsons, Jim Bo the Clown, Jim Silverlake and the Stu Millers. Huston will do some Florida dates for promoter Ron Morris, then is off to Montreal and the Occult Exposition, April 19-29.

Bernie Berwyn and Ken Brewster are back in town after a tour with Bill Brickley's show. . . Billy Rodgers has been busy supplying everyone's wardrobe needs for the coming season. . . Rumor has it that Jim Nordmark's icer may revert back to a magic show this year.

Hall & Christ have delayed the opening of "Wondercade" until November and are still adding to the already large arsenal of illusions. They have purchased Roy Huston's girl to lion illusion, Stu Miller's crystal casket, and Richard Vosses' cannon illusion.

Magic Time USA pulled out of winter quarters on March 15th, to start their season for

Mearl Johnson. At some spots the show will be billed as Magic Time Circus. Magician Peter Sturgis is our new stage manager, Jack King has the band and we will also have the Erv Lang chimps, the circus acts of Stephen Mitchell, and circus clown Marc Diamond. Sara Miller has created all new spec wardrobe for our new levitation production and close encounters of the Third kind feature production.

Laying over at NYC we caught the Incredible World of Magic and Illusion at the Town Hall on Broadway. Richiardi is the star and is supported by Ger Copper, Count Della Ragione, and Todd Bucanon. Richiardi is not only the world's greatest illusionist, but a very gracious host as well, as he proved when Sara and I visited with him after the show.

At the show that same evening were Jack Adams, Larry Weeks and Bob Baxter, who had been with the show when it opened. Larry is going to hold his 49th annual one day magic convention at the Diplomat Hotel in June and has signed Craig Nier and Roland Rochelle as feature acts. His big 50th annual convention will be in September this year and he has promised a stellar affair. Talent so far includes Jack Adams, Romaine, and Bob Myers & Co.

The Tommy Hanneford Circus day-and-dated Ringling Red in the "big apple" when they showed at Wagner College on Staten Island in late March. Senor Rai was as resplendent as ever, as announcer and magician.

We are opening in the Philadelphia area this year and working towards Chicago. Our route will be in Circus Report, so stop by when you can.



A circus, produced by Amandis Entertainment Service, was presented for the Diamond Builders Convention at Sarasota, Fla., on March 30th. The show was held on the lawn of the local Hyatt House, site of the convention.

Acts appearing in the 90 minute performance were: Don Giovanni (Tino Zoppe), comedy; Miss Olinka, aerialist; The Bertinis, unicycles; Ferry Forst, magic; The Cristianis, trampoline; George Hanneford's dogs and elephants (4), presented by Diane and Kathy; Hunkie Johnson's bears and daughter Le Vonne on the single trapeze; Fire Works Display and the Castro Bros. on the high wire.

Staff for the show, which drew a standing ovation, included: Gunnar Amandis, producer; Bill Pruyn, band leader; Bill Kay, announcer/performance director; Finn Neilsen, props. Circus equipment was provided by the William Kay Productions.

SPECIAL

CFA NEWS . . . by Hunt Bushnell

On Mar. 31st, the Joseph Andrew Rowe Tent No. 6, Los Angeles, Calif., decided to start a special fund to sponsor the duplication of a film in the Circus World Museum's Lending Library. This will enable the film to be sent out for various fan meetings. Some \$40 in contributions was raised that evening and an auction of circus memorabilia will be held on Apr. 28 as a means of raising additional funds. (The auction and meeting will be held at Hinshaw Auditorium, 1201 So. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.)

At the same meeting it was unanimously voted that four former members would be made "Honorary Members". They were dedicated circus fans who left their normal humdrum work and went on to become full-time professionals in show business.

The "Honorary Members" are:

Bill Biggerstaff, formerly involved in advertising for a fast food chain, who is now Supt. of the Front Door with Circus Vargas.

Doug Lyons, who was a free lance agent for circus and nightclub acts, who is now Vice President of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus.

Bob MacDougall, a former designer/draftsman in the Air Industry, who is now General Manager for Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Blue Unit.

Ed Russell, began as a school teacher and who is now ringmaster and equestrian director for the Hubert Castle Circus.



AMAZING BYRON . . . by Harrison Hall

The Amazing Byron Magic Variety Show drew two full houses in Saginaw, Mich., the first week of April when it appeared at the South School Auditorium. The show was hosted by the Optimists Club and was resigned for a 1980 appearance.

True to it's billing, it is not just another Magic Show but a complete full variety show with live music, scenery and costume changes.

The show opened with a pre-show warm-up with Wayne Owen (Peanuts the Clown) doing animal balloons on the stage. This was followed by honorary officials being introduced and an overture by Danny Daniels, who has been with the show since its inception. Ruth Wood held the audience breathless with her opening songs.

The introduction of The Amazing Byron was in true magical style, complete with a flash and puff of smoke. One of the highlights of this act, was the life-size quick cartoon drawing of a "tiny little magician" from which a real live three foot five inch magician was produced, thru a slit in the drawing. This little fellow is a perfectly developed man in every respect except he is only 3' 5" tall. He quickly stole the hearts of all in attendance as he later went out into the audience and shook hands with literally hundreds of patrons.

The equipment and illusions are all done in excellent taste and props were made at Abbott's.

Danny Daniels brightened the two performances with his quick wit, comedy juggling and music. The Henneberry family were supporting acts, doing the 4 person unicycle and a high class vaudeville type juggling duo. The musical novelty numbers were all well received.

The Amazing Byron (who happens to be none other than Col. Bill Voorheis, of circus fame) proves once again that he is a versatile producer of still another of his World Wide Amusement productions, and in this case, amazed all of us with his professionalism in the world of magic and illusions, including the finale which was "sawing a woman in half." The World of Wonders Show turned out to be exactly what it advertised - A Great Big Variety and Magic Show.



JOEY the Clown recently celebrated his birthday. He is anxious to hear from friends who may have lost track of him as a result of a move. His new address is: 21212 Seep Willow Way, Canyon Country, Calif. 91351.

SAWDUST TRAIL

HOW observant are you? On Mar. 21st, CBS-TV Evening News carried a report called "Deadly Dilama - The Arms Race". Much to my surprise they showed a gentleman who has amassed a complete division of tanks and equipment in what appeared to be "O" scale. They were comparing it to the cost of present day equipment. The gentleman was none other than Bob Parkinson, famed circus fan and a member of the staff at the Circus World Museum.

THE report that Carden-Johnson may field three units this season is more than just a rumor. Unit 1 is already on the road, opening in Feb. and will run thru Nov. 25. Unit 2 was set to open Mar. 19th at Lake Charles, La. The third unit will play a string of dates in Canada. John "Yo Ho" MacKay, well known producing clown will join on May 12th, after completing his contracted dates. John will be both clown and the show electrician.

SAD news for Louisiana Fans. The reported spring tour of Beatty-Cole in So. Louisiana will not take place. Instead the show will turn north from Gulfport so Louisiana will have shows playing close, that is in Mississippi and Texas.

AL Dawley reports from Canton, Ohio, that the Polack produced Shrine Circus was very successful. He reports the date was resigned for 1980. John MacKay was in clown alley there and will be in Shreveport in June, where DoDo the Clown is also set to appear. John went to New Orleans for a Mar. 30-Apr. 1 date.

MIKE Martin, magician, has been presenting his magic/illusion act in Florida. Mike is assisted in the show by his wife and sister. Mike's dates are currently being sponsored by the Police and Fire Associations, and the show is backed by a three piece band. The program also includes a chimp act and juggling, for a 2 hour presentation.

Mar. 22nd was the date that famed wire walker Karl Wallenda fell to his death last year. National press coverage appeared everywhere, and the March 19th issue of the St. Petersburg Times carried an updated story with an interview with Helen Wallenda. Associated Press carried a picture of the Wallendas who were performing at Detroit.

My thanks to Mike Martin for the autographed picture, thanks to Tex Dreyfus for two books, thanks to Al Dawley for the clippings and others who have sent in news and material. Since we get no news direct from the shows we have to rely on the help of circus fans and friends and we appreciate their kind assistance.

..... M. L. DUPONT



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CIRCUS ACTS

Acts appearing with the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at its April 7th engagement for the University of Akron (Akron, Ohio) were: The Dolly Sisters, cradle; The Berens, trapeze; Joanne & Toma, dressage horse; The Navarro Troupe, unicycles; T & T, perch act; Joanne and her Canine and Pony Revue; Theresa & Teddy, acro-balancing; Nancy Kelly, ringmistress, with J. P. Grimshaw, prop boss.

The program being presented this season by the Int'l All Star Circus features: Leigh Ketchum, musical director; The Cycling Terrys, unicycles; Raphael and his Poodle Revue; Popcorn and Etcetera, clowns; Hines & Co., magic; LaTorre's Cockatoos; Miss Tanya, hair hang; Rucker's uncaged leopard; Bonnie & Clyde,

IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD (Dick) GEOGIA, of Binghamton, N.Y., a retired funeral director, died at his home on March 4th. He was also a retired contracting agent for the Beatty-Cole Circus and most recently worked for Hoxie Bros. Circus. Survivors include his wife, Betty, two daughters, five sons and his mother.

HARRY SWARTZ (78) the owner of West Coast Novelty Co., for over 50 years. The company's office was at 1012 Howard St., San Francisco. Survivors include his brothers Jack and Amy.

novelty musical duo; Uncle Heavy and his Pork Chop Revue; Mademoiselle Cherie, web; the Vasquez Chimp act; Terry O'Brien and Camille, slackwire Billy Earl, and Henrietta, vent act; Mike LaTorres and the elephant Stonie.



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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

know that two books by author DARRYL PONISCAN are now available in paperback. They are "Tom Mix Died For Your Sins" (from which a movie script was fashioned and then shelved) and "Ringmaster". Thus far I have read the last mentioned and am sorry to say it is a very BAD book on all counts, one that will do nothing for the reputation of the circus OR its well-known author. Poniscan is a gifted writer whose credits include "The Last Detail" and "Cinderella Liberty" and it's a pity he wasted time and talent on such trash as "Ringmaster". No self-respecting person connected with our already over-maligned industry will find anything about the book to commend it. The TOM MIX book I haven't read yet. After reading 'Ringmaster' the thought doesn't thrill me.

CLOSEUPS: JANICE and MIKE ARIA debuted their new Golden Retriever dog act on the Garden Circus in Montgomery (Ala) in mid-March where they also had their bear act. . . I mixed up the catcher's name (with the LAR-RAYS) in an earlier column when I called him "Don" instead of "Bob" (Bans is his last name). He's that young man who was injured in a freak fall last spring in Amarillo on a Hubler date. The catcher is fine now. . . VIRGINIA STRONG, mother of BILL STRONG, called to tell me I had erred in writing that BILL & TRUDY and BILL & DONNA had already returned stateside from their Circo Atayde tour. The kids are due back about now. Seems they played the full tour which followed Mexico City. Mater and Pater Strong visited the show in Monterrey, and were highly impressed, said the show was beautiful, was playing a combination of buildings, covered bull rings, open air and big top. They saw the show under canvas, a four pole square European style big top with a special canvas dome created for Bill and Trudy's rocket ship. I was also informed that Trudy's Dalmatian dog act is ready and she will begin working the act this season. . . JOANNE and PEE WEE PINSON have been headquartering at the Strong farm in Springfield (Oh) while spot-dating the East and before head-

HAL HAVILAND says....

Reminiscent of Victor Julian, one of the late Ed Sullivan's talent scouts was Mark Leddy. Mark recalls that Sullivan felt Victor was a personal discovery. When Sullivan visited Europe, he saw Julian's dog act and invited Victor to perform on the then top-rated Ed Sullivan TV Show.

Victor hadn't heard of the show and thought Sullivan was some kind of a crazy American tourist and promptly forgot the matter. Later, of course, Victor Julian did come to this country and appeared many times with Sullivan. Victor's "Little Stars" became one of Sullivan's pet acts.

ing to Cirque Gatini which opens next month. . . HUBLER INT'L had added Jackson (Miss) in May and Birmingham (Ala) in June to its ever-lengthening route. George will also have some Rodeo dates this year. . . FRITZIE HUBER, daughter of BETTY HUBER, is living and working in the San Diego area. Brother BOB is a rigger with Hamid-Morton. . . CARDEN-JOHNSON will replay the Denver Shrine date while DOBRITCH plays the same city for the police. . . The SWAYING STARS have been spot-dating the first mentioned show. . . Ringmaster ED RUSSELL is playing the Castle second unit. . . PHIL and LINDA CHANDLER are with Carson & Barnes this season. They spent the winter on the James M. Cole All Star TV Circus. . . Injuries knocked the TABAK troupe out of the Hamid-Morton lineup immediately upon opening their season in Hartford.

BOUQUETS: To plucky MICKEY GARDEN whose agonizing back problems, which have hospitalized the songstress several times, have nevertheless not prevented her from singing in the show; nor has she complained about the almost constant pain being suffered. Instead the gal stands for the several songs she sings, with a ready smile, and a cheerful disposition. She's a very special lady indeed.

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on Tour

The TNT & Royal Olympic Circus plays a number of early dates this month, then returns to California to complete its routing for the extended tour, which is slated to open in Pennsylvania in June and will continue through October. Much of the season will be spent in the mid-west this year.

The show management is attempting to keep long jumps to a minimum. "We've always tried to keep moves tight, but now and then it becomes necessary to make a long jump," said Earl Tegge, producer. He indicated that bookings have been slower than in the past, but for the most part the season is looking promising.

The show's route will again be shown in Circus Report, and Tegge said they look forward to seeing all of their friends again this season. "We will be playing quite a few new locations this year," he added, "and we hope that fans in those areas will join our long list of old friends. All are welcome."

New this year will be a side show (Kid Show) to be presented by Tim Tegge. It will be operated as an added attraction at the Malls interested in an incidental show between regular performances. It must, however be contracted for separately, and when not working may be set up only as additional flash. It will have a banner line and entrance banner, all of which have been painted by Tim.

The TNT & Royal Olympic Circus is beginning to take on the classic appearance and flavor of real old time circus, but under controlled conditions.

"We will never have, nor do I want, the largest show in the world," said Tegge. "But it will be the classiest show of its kind going. I want it to be remembered from season to season, and its visits looked forward to."

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JUNGLE WONDERS CIRCUS . . . by M. L. Dupont

Fielding a completely different look than in the past Gopher Davenport has put out a winner in his new format for 1979. Opening on Feb. 28th, at Conroe, Texas, the Jungle Wonders Circus has surprised many circus fans with its new look.

The show is using the blue canvas top that was the menagerie on Circus Vargas in '78, and makes an impressive appearance on the lot. It is a two pole top, using 10 quarter poles, with one ring. The midway has a pony ride, on a sweep with no top over it; a petting zoo complete with goats, llamas and small donkeys. Two cage trucks with White rhino in one and the other has a lioness and leopard. The midway is completed with a small snake show, pop corn wagon, plus a ticket wagon.

The seating is bleacher type and can seat over 1000 with all of the seats in. The equipment is all in good shape with a 60 kw generator GMC diesel.

There are 8 elephants, all under the direction of a young trainer, Capt. Johnson, who works 3 males in a good routine.

The wardrobe is excellent and there are red plumes on the head pieces of each animal.

The performance is very good, runs about 1½ hours with a 10 minute intermission. The program includes a lion act, 2 dogs, singer and trap act, camel, zebra, llama, high wire, rope tricks and plate spinning, flying act, and with one clown.

PEOPLE

ADEN and VELMA LOWRY and their Circus Hobby Collection and Private Museum were featured in a full page story in the Independence, Kans., Daily Reporter on March 4th.

CHARLES RAYMOND (Pee Wee), VELMA LOWRY, WINNIE KILLOUGH and DR. KILLOUGH, all members of the Kansas Clown Alley No. 45, helped with the National Easter Seal Benefit on March 25th.

IT'S NEW

A new community circus center has been established in Berkeley, Calif., by Arina Issacson, who is also known as "Boo-Lu the Clown."

Operating as "Circus a la Mode" the center is located in what was an old warehouse at 2547 Eighth St. It is both a teaching facility and performance arena for presentation of circus arts.

Arina is a dancer and gymnast and has worked for eight years as a special education consultant with children and teenagers. She holds an M.A. in communication disorders.

Acts

Several novelty acts have been booked by Simone Finner Enterprises for network television appearances, including: Senor Wences, ventriloquist on the Merv Griffin Show and Imperial Palace; Leonardo, balancing and plate spinning, on the Mike Douglas Show; Eddie Windsor and Lolo, comedy dog act on The Dinah Shore Show, and the Jabczynski Troupe of teeterboard artists on the Dinah Shore Show.

PEOPLE

ADEN and VELMA LOWRY, of Kansas, did several TV, radio and newspaper interviews following the death of Emmett Kelly, Sr., who was a native of Sedan, Kansas.

PATRICK BURDEN, a 13 year old clown from Independence, Kansas, has inherited the state title of "Kansas' Own Bozo" from EDDY PATRICK BOAZ, who gave up the title due to ill health.

SIMONE FINNER, Hollywood Artists Manager, has returned to the West Coast after visiting the Moscow Circus in San Antonio, El Gran Circo de Pater Pan, Caracas, Venezuela, Sam T. Polack Circus in Canton, the Shrine Circus at Detroit, the Royal Hanneford Circus at Chicago, Borger Bros. Circus at Chicago and the Monte Carlo Circus at Toledo.

CLAYTON WOOD, popular circus fan and collector, is recovering at home after a lengthy hospital stay

JOHNNY PEERS

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FLASH

Included in some of the news reports reaching the west coast, concerning the problems caused by the nuclear reactor accident in Pennsylvania, was the report that a circus had been forced to cancel its scheduled shows in that state.

ELEPHANTS STAMPEDE (Continued)

A policeman told reporters, "our problem wasn't the elephants, it was people. Everybody was trying to see what was going on. Boy, were those poor elephants scared."

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and would enjoy cards and letters. Write him at: 835 Center St., Elgin, Ill. 60120.

RED SKELTON, TV and night club star, says there is too much sex and violence on TV and until the industry cleans up its programs he will not return to the media. He owns the rights to all of his films and will not allow their use on TV either.