



5th Year

August 16, 1976

Number 33

RENEWED HOPE

After suffering two very disappointing dates (Shreveport and Thibodaux, La.) and near closing of the show, Super Circus USA made a strong comeback at Jackson, Miss. (July 29-31). As a result the show moved into Tampa (Aug. 5-7) with a feeling of renewed hope and a positive attitude that the tour could be completed as was first planned. Advance promotion for Tampa indicated that each performance should draw good crowds.

Publicity for the show at Jackson was excellent, with all local media carrying commercials and interviews with performers. Headlining the publicity campaign was the greeting of President Ford by the Oscar Cristiani ele-

Jail Term

High wire walker Steve Mc Peak has been sentenced to ten days in jail and placed on probation for three years, because of

(Continued on Page 15)

(Continued on Page 13)

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Memorial Service

The CMB's Sells-Floto Ring #34, joined the Bicentennial Committee at Chepachet (R.I.) on July 30th in placing a wreath on the bridge in town where the elephant Little Bet (Betsy) was shot and killed on May 27, 1826 - 150 years ago. The Circus Kirk elephant, Baby Lisa, placed the floral tribute at the approximate site of the slaying during ceremonies between circus performance

The circus drew two straw houses here and at the evening show Ring President Ray (Zip, the Clown) LaRouche, introduced Ring Vice President Col. Steve Ringling Sullivan, who presented Dr. Charles Boas, of Circus Kirk, with a commemorative plaque. It bears a bas-relief of an elephant and was designed by town historian Mrs. Edna Kent, who presented Dr. Boas with a copy of her book on regional history.

.....Steve Sullivan

FRANK PERRY, veteran circus man, is Assistant Manager of the RBBB Blue Unit, while LLOYD MORGAN, Jr. is General Manager.

Show Veterans

Two long-time RBBB veterans on the show's Blue Unit are:

Clown Prince Paul who has been with the circus since 1935 and show timekeeper and train supt., Alvin Schwartz (a former clown/acrobat) who joined RBBB in 1950. Alvin's wife, Betsy, joined the circus in 1951 and now manages the train's pie car.

Another veteran RBBB employee, Kenneth (Sheik) Gwinell, is now off the road and currently is employed by Anderson Ford in Sarasota, Fla.

PEOPLE

THE WAZZANS, the CRISTIANIS PRINCE BOGINO and The ROBERTSONS visited the Gatti-Charles Circus at Sudbury (Canada).

BOB EMRICO has been helping GERALDO bale hay on his farm near Fallon, Nevada.

ROBERT BAUDY has resigned as Vice President of the Nat'l Congress of Animal Trainers due to the pressure of work at his Florida animal attraction.

THE BALE FAMILY

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IRENE, GLORIA, NITA and BONNIE "The Bale Sisters"

High School Horses on tour with "Holiday With Horses"

Ready For Police Date

Charles Germaine's Page-Cavanaugh Circus will play five performances at the Cow Palace in San Francisco under the auspices of the San Francisco Police Activities League. The circus, which debuts in September on the East Coast, will place special emphasis on high-quality trained animal acts.

Germaine told CR that, "We shall do what we did when we formed Miller-Johnson Circus....and that is to give the public a well balanced circus production with quality acts. As far as locations are concerned, we will play under big tops, buildings, grandstands, ...and even old ladies driveways if needs be. A good quality circus, no matter where it is presented, is always well received by the public, and we are interested in sound fiscal management!"

Opening in September with the Page-Cavanaugh Circus will be John Cuneo's five trained animal acts...who will also be present for the San Francisco dates. The East Coast dates will be under a big top, and Germaine went on to say there would be no lavish and costly production numbers since "I am not presenting a Broadway theatrical...but a CIRCUS!"

"When we open next year", said Germaine, "three trucks will be more than sufficient to carry show-owned equipment, and we look forward to a good season."

Any performers looking for work this year or next year should contact: Page-Cavanaugh Circus, 1133 So. Riverside Ave., Suite 16, Medford, Oregon 97501.

Duo Dates

This week the Du Bois Circus World is playing at Laval (Queb.) in Canada, through Aug. 22nd. Circus Vargas will play Laval on Aug. 19-25.

PEOPLE

POPO, the Clown, celebrated his 76th birthday at Oakland, Ca. on Aug. 7th, working at the city Fairyland Park.

RONA BARRETT's "Hollywood Gossip" for Sept. 1976, has two photos of movie stars riding Circus Vargas elephants.

FRANK DEAN spends most of his between show time working on a new western rodeo book which he hopes to have published late this year. CHAPPIE FOX, of RBBB; JOHN HURDLE, of the Ringling Museum; JOE McKENNON, author and DON FRANCIS, of Circus World Museum, were guests at the July 29-31 CMB Meet at Springfield, Ohio.

THE CHANDLER BROS., working advance for RBBB's Blue Unit with their marionettes have been kept on a busy schedule in California.

The Business phone is: (503) 779-7930, while the home phone is (503) 582-1598.

ROUTES

Beatty-Cole Circus

Aug. 16 Youngstown, Ohio
17 Lorain
18 Toledo
19 Ann Arbor, Mich
20 Findlay, Ohio
21 Middletown
22 Columbus

Circus Kirk

Aug. 16 Wexford, Pa.
18 Rochester
19 Prospect
20 Ford City
21 Sharpsburg
22 Burgettstown

Circus Vargas

Aug. 19-25 Laval, Quebec

DuBois Circus World

to Aug. 22 Laval, Quebec

Famous Hunt's Circus

Aug. 16 Groton, Conn
20-21 Madison
23 Plainville

George-Matthews Circus

Aug. 16 Newark, Ohio
17 Wheeling, W. Va

Happytime Circus

Aug 16-19 Stockton, Calif

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Aug. 16 E. Windsor, N.J.
17 E. Brunswick

Hoxie Bros. (Continued)

Aug. 18 South Amboy, N.J.
19 Lavallette
20 Hillsborough
21 Flemington

Hoxie's Great American Cir.

Aug. 16 Tower City, Pa.
17 Shamokin
18 Richmond
19 Atglen
21-23 Lewisburg, W. Va.

Kaye Cont'l Circus

to Aug. 22 Honolulu, Haw.

King Bros. Circus

Aug. 16 Saratoga Spgs, NY
17 Ravenna
18 Haverstraw
19 Monroe
20 Warwick
21 Honesdale, Pa.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

Aug 18-22 Long Beach, Ca.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

Aug 18-23 Salt Lake City,
Utah

Royal Bros. Circus

Aug. 16 St. Pierre, Man
17 Steinback
19 Gimli
20 Powerview
22 Sioux Narrows,

Royal Danish Circus

Aug 17-22 Escanaba; Mich.

Sells & Gray Circus

Aug. 16 Waterbury, Conn.
17 Greenfield, Mass
18 North Adams
19 Stockbridge

John Strong Circus

Aug. 16 Provo, Utah
17-18 Murray
19 Ogden

Super Circus USA

Aug 16-17 Fitchburg, Mass

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

Aug 18-22 Omaha, Nebr.

Wenatchee Youth Circus

Aug. 16 Seattle, Wash.

.... OTHER ROUTES

Abbott's Magic Get-together

Aug 20-23 Colon, Mich.

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit

Aug 17-29 Des Moines, Iowa

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit

Aug 17-29 Des Moines, Iowa

Chinese Acrobats of Taiwan

Aug 22-24 Los Angeles, Ca

James H. Drew Shows

Aug 16-21 Wise, Va.

Holiday With Horses

Aug 16-17 Salisbury, Md.

18 Wildwood, N.J.

20-21 W. Springf'd, Mas

Ice Follies

Aug 18-28 San Fran, Calif

Mitchell Marionettes

Aug 17-22 Winnebago, Ill



BILLY BARTON.....

FLASH!!! On May 29, 1977, TERRY CAVARETTA appears at a Command Performance for the Queen of England.....KANDY CAVARETTA is now in England with husband producer JERRY SCHAFER where plans are progressing (slowly) on a new motion picture.....MARLENE CAVARETTA, a dancer, took time out to have a baby and replaced BARRY MITCHELL of the Flying Medallions at Circus Circus when he injured his shoulder....And....VINCE CAVARETTA is now driving a cab in Vegas.

ROYAL HANNEFORD NOTES: Prior to entering Canada the show played the airport parking lot of the Hilton Hotel in Pittsburgh and SIGNOR RAI did his illusion act nightly in the hotel lounge. Rai cooks gourmet meals for Tommy and Struppi, which Tommy makes disappear as if HE is doing an illusion act....In Ottawa, Hanneford personnel exchanged visits with MILTON BERLE, DONALD O'CONNOR and GEORGE JESSEL whose variety show followed them in. It's reported that Berle fell in love with IRENE FOSSETT's chimp - what about Irene???....DEBBIE CHAPMAN is doing single traps in the web number....PETER HAUBNER's new kick is golfing with JERRY MAAS...Bill bull CHANDRA stepped on DWIGHT HANSON's foot - last year it was poor IRIS KEPPO who got itDON BASHAM is still buying greyhound bus tickets...and would you believe that Sir VICTOR JUL-

IAN played those three weeks of one day stands in Canada and loved every minute of it?

SELLS & GRAY NOTES: During a heavy rainstorm, boss props ARNIE JEFFER debuted his new "sharp shooting" act when he shot a hole in a water pocket just behind the center ring and was a smash hit with ringsiders....MARIE FRANCE and TINA STOREY both broke costume straps on the same matinee, but the blushing ladies contrived to keep the show "G-Rated"...TOPSY, the elephant, had never been harness-broken until young GARY THOMAS convinced the pachyderm that putting up the side show and helping out with the big top is the elephantly thing to do!..... When S&G passed Famous Hunt most people stopped to visit and HARRY HUNT visited S&G....Also visiting was BILL KAY (the plate-spinner NOT the producer)...PATTI WUDTKE celebrated her birthday.

Ever meet a clown who's a drummer OR....a drummer who's a clown? Then meet TIM TEGGE, of TNT & Royal Olympic, who does both - and well....Veteran showman JAMES M. COLE heads north in Mid-September to line-up his Cole All Star Circus route. Contracted are the WILLIAMS, dog act and jugglers, now with G-M.

HENRY BARRETT's Salt Lake City promo broke all attendance records despite the fact that Po-

(Continued on Page 12)

Back In States

After a very successful tour in Canada, the Big John Strong Circus returned to the States and played Oregon (Ohio) July 29-30, for the local police.

In addition to its well lettered and colorful trucks, the show's rolling stock now includes a new office trailer, candy trailer.

The tight-knit program, directed by Betty Wendany, features the Strongettes on web and ladders; The Juggling Michaels and Heidi Wendany; Sandy Strong with "Arthur"; Betty and Heidi with ponies, and later Heidi rides the dressage horse "Shalimar"; Chris DeWayne and "Neena"; and the talented Don Young and partner, plus the Hindu numbers of Swami Amazo and Princess Tirona.

..... George DaDeppo

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CONCERT SET

Two concerts will be presented during the regional meet planned by Windjammers Unlimited for Chicago on Aug. 20-22. Both concerts will be conducted by the group's president Robert P. Hills and the public is invited.

A special circus music concert will be offered at the North Riverside Park Mall (North Riverside, Ill.) on Aug. 21st at 1 p.m. The program will also include circus acts and clowns.

That same day, at 4 p.m., the Windjammers will present a brief memorial concert at Showman's Rest Burial Plot, Woodlawn Cemetery, Forest Park, Ill. This is the burial site of the victims of the 1918 Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus wreck. The Showman's League Chaplain will also attend and will offer a short service and prayer.

..... James Kalivoda

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MID-AMERICA OK

... by BILL GREEN

The Mid-America Circus played Beatrice (Nebr) on Aug. 1st, one of several dates in the area being played under contract with the Jack & Jill Food Stores. The show this year is much larger and attractive than last year, and the new big top and pit show are attractive canvas units.

They have four show owned trucks, plus a dozen or more private vehicles. John Strong, Jr. has the side show here, but had been exhibiting in Illinois and so was unable to get into Beatrice in time for the shows here.

The front end is handled by Bob Tripp and Gordon Walsh, with Mel Silverlake in charge of the backyard and announcing chores. The organist is Dean Coonrad who does an excellent job. Jim Gourley is producing clown, assisted by Shelley Kaplan, an attractive young lady who made her debut in the circus ring here. She was a surprisingly good clown and both

have good wardrobe and make-up.

The program was detailed in CR on Aug. 9, 1976 - Page 2. I was impressed with the exceptionally clean appearance of everyone on the show, and you can't find a friendlier group. It should do much to up-grade the circus in the minds of fans and towners alike. It certainly is the finest show for its size I have seen in a long time.

Both Larry Chartiers and Ron Sanford visited the show with me. Later Mel Silverlake stopped by the house to visit and see my collection. When John Strong, Jr. arrived in town he also came by to visit, bringing Sam Skinner with him.

Fans should make it a point to attend this show. My sincere thanks to everyone who made the day such an enjoyable one.

Show Guests

Circus folks seen visiting the George-Matthews Circus during the past few weeks included: Tony Nock, Cookie Arturo, Kim Norman, Peter Haubner, Philip Morris, Jerry, Brian and David Maas, Charles and Marqueen Schlarbaum, Nancy Guiardo, Wally & Cheryl, Emil and Debbie Goetchi, Sandy and Michelle Dobritch, the Villams, the Flying Medallions, Hans Winn Troupe, Vynn and Wynn, Bob and Kay Parker, Bert, Marie and Tommy Pettus, Sandra Fulbright, Larry and Karen French.

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OLD CHICAGO

THE OLD CHICAGO Amusement-Shopping Complex is a "must see" attraction for visitors coming to the area, as well as for those who live there. The huge domed building is visible from every direction and is an impressive sight at night.

A shopping mall covers the entire outer perimeter of the amusement area which must be passed in either direction to reach the fun zone entrance, located in the rear of the building. The store fronts, constructed to resemble Chicago of yesteryear, are beautifully designed, reminding this writer of the old Hollywood back lots. Retail shops offer conventional merchandise, interspersed by specialty kiosks providing everything from magic equipment to antique tin-type photos - made while you wait.

In the mall is a Dinner Theatre, playing Broadway Musicals, and a Bavarian Beer Garden with live entertainment that overlooks the amusement area. Strolling musicians wander through the crowds, while two organ grinders, Ray BeeBee and Tony & Chris, delight onlookers with their capricious monkeys as they weave in and out of the original Chicago Street Lamps centered along the "avenue".

A number of charming Gazebos are spotted in the mall housing old time player pianos and a puppet show, presented by the Duanes

..... by BILLY BARTON

with Candy the Clown. Other attractions of merit include an exhibit featuring stage props of the Great Houdini, and performances by Alberta Massey, who plays a Bell Wagon Uniphone constructed in 1912 for Ringling. This museum piece, placed in storage in 1915, was rediscovered after 60 years and renovated. There is no charge to the Mall itself and these attractions are free to the visitor.

- FUN ZONE -

To enter the Fun Zone one leaves the concourse through turnstiles and walks down a long curving ramp, where a preponderance of "major" rides thunders in the ear. Featured is a roller coaster-type ride called The Chicago Loop, that is as exciting to look at as it must be to ride. Admission is \$4.75, which entitles one to ride any ride as often as he chooses, or for \$1.50 one may simply roam at will and see the vaudeville and circus shows.

- THE CIRCUS -

Within the cramped area of the Chicago Loop Ride you find the circus, enclosed on three sides by bleachers and backed by a scenic design of circus tents (painted on flats) and a band trailer.

An excellent circus band is directed by organist Emil Hahn, with Joe Brown, Del Bergerson and Otis Weaver, trumpets; Giles Aus

(Continued on Page 14)

This ad appeared in the San Francisco (Calif.) newspapers on Sep. 10, 1896.

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ROUTES

National Unicycle Meet

Aug. 21-22 Marion, Ohio

Rose City Rides

Aug. 16-21 Jackson, Mo.

Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show

Aug. 17 Eugene, Oregon

18-19 Portland

20-22 Seattle, Wash.

Tip Top Shows

Aug. 19-22 Ellsworth, Wisc.

W. G. Wade Shows

Aug. 16-21 Escanaba, Mich.

16-21 Berrian Springs

Lawrence Welk Show

Aug. 20 Oakland, Calif.



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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

lack was day-and-dating Vargas... LUIS and TINA MUNOZ (Los Argentinos) return to the Texas dates where Luis is the performance director....Recent eastern dates gave Famous Hunt two days of surprising packed houses and Harry says the concessions at Levittown had the biggest day in the entire history of the Hunt Circus, so it must have been a whopper.

BOB KNOELL paid a surprise visit to ex-aerialist MARGUERITTE BARTON at our Penna. home recently...Heard that SARAH and DANNY CHAPMAN decided against going to Peru after all....REMO CRISTIANI is no longer with Garden Bros....BERT PETTUS tells me Dailey Bros. has a new big top and is doing good business....Clown BILLY McCABE has opened a costume shop in Sarasota.

BILLY RODGERS just lost his pet Persian cat of many years which went into a fit while chasing a chipmunk. "First my dog, then my bird, now my cat! I've had such BAD luck this year," Billy writes....BOOM BOOM BROWNING filled in for JACK CERVONE at the St. Louis Shrine date when Jack had to fly to Denver.

The VILLAMS, who originally were five, are NOT new to this country. Some years back the late AL DOBRITCH brought them over for ED SULLIVAN and Shrine dates. They also appeared at Las Vegas..... RICHARD PLUME, our circus seer, has been batting 100 with his dire predictions - sad to say.

PHILIP VARGAS, Aneta's son, is building an illusion act but Aneta says she won't let him perform publicly until he is older and the act is letter-perfect.

JOHN WINN, Jr. got sleepy on a recent Europorama jump, let his girl companion drive and the Mercedes was totalled. John was pinned under the car, still bears the scars. HANS WINN, following, was on the scene immediately.

Who says "It Pays to Advertise"?...BILLY EARL, ringmaster with Sells & Gray, gussied up to the nines in red tails, black boots, rhinestones flashing in the sunlight, was just about to enter the big top to start the show when a newly hired worker asked him: "Are you with the circus?"

See you down the road, luvs.

HELP WANTED

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RENEWED HOPE (Continued)

phants during the President's visit to the city.

Acts appearing in the circus at Jackson were: Miss Nanatte slide for life; Prof. Shappi, comedy piano; Mr. Mike, chair balancing; The Clowns; Miss Roberta, single trapeze; Dynamic DeMille, tightwire; Winn Bros., inclined wire walk; The Villams, juggling.

Following an intermission for the second half were: The Flying Medallions; Oscar Cristiani's elephants presented by Larry and Karen French; and the Winn Troupe, aerial motorcycle.

PEOPLE

Professional acts appearing at the Napa (Calif.) Town & Country Fair (Aug. 4-8) included: Bobby & Cissy, dancers; Buddy Alan, western singer; Maria Mulldaur, vocalist; The Palace Family magic stars; Ben Taylor, juggler and the Sleepy Creek Skunk Band.

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SAWDUST TRAIL

After sitting idle from May 12 to July 13, the George-Matt-hews Circus started the second half of its season at Natchez on July 14th. The new season brought many changes and Sid Kellner told this reporter that "I had to make changes in order to cut the nut, so we decided to come out again with the ever increasingly popular one ring circus. Three rings were killing us and the cost of moving was getting out of hand."

The show moved into Louisiana, following closely on the heels of Royal Hanneford and Super Circus. In fact at Monroe posters for both shows were going up the same day and many stores had Hanneford and G-M posters side-by-side.

The orange and white tent is a 120 ft round with one 50 ft middle, using two center poles, 16 short and 12 long quarter poles. The canvas loads on a spool truck, which is also carrying the other two center pieces.

The five piece band is directed by Cliff Morosi, Ed Russell is ringmaster, Nick Bengor is the supt., while Eric Jaeger handles the canvas and Lee Mister has the cookhouse.

..... M. L. Dupont

WANTED: Extra small ponies for a liberty act. PRICE MUST BE RIGHT. Contact: Hal Haviland as per King Bros. Circus route.

OLD CHICAGO (Continued)

ting, drums; Dave Kotowski, trombone/baritone. They play a brief concert, drowned out somewhat by the rides. It is hoped that installation of baffles will eliminate some of the noise.

Ringmaster Saul Shafton, keeps the show running smoothly, getting off with a web routine by Ginger Lee, followed by the nice, fast rolling globe act of the Cassidys (would make a better opener). The act features a long globe-roll up a ramp, across a teeterboard and down, by the girl partner.

The show is presented in one ring and in such a confined area the lulls are unavoidable. The first occurs after the Cassidys and is partially covered by the and, but would be expedited by a more efficient prop crew which the one seen on June 21st was not. A clown team could be used to great advantage to fill the dead spots.

Cleo, "the mean little kid" makes a "camp" entrance in a Buster Brown costume, bearing a lollipop which he refuses to relinquish, and becomes the mouthpiece for an iron jaw suspension. The serio-comedy trapeze turn is amusing with some cute "bits" that has good potential. In size and demeanor he is perfect for the part which is spoiled only by a clown make-up that doesn't make any sense.

Highlighting the performance

mid-way is the exceptionally funny ford presentation by Rex Young whose new "Jackie Gleason" characterization is terrific. It is a funny act and the hound dog, Countess Caboose II, who yawns and rolls over, bored to death by the booms and bangs, steals the act. An extra plus for Rex is he is the only act able to overcome the distraction of noise by topping it!

The Rummell Duo takes to the air in a nice cradle act with layout spin, followed by Bill Slater's dog and goat combination. Slater also does a slack wire-juggling number earlier in the program. The Great Boros closes the show with his breakaway sway pole thriller, made all the more exciting by such close viewing.

The pleasing performance runs an hour and ten minutes and is shown three times a day, acts have one day a week off. On the show caught the Zamudios (high wire and head balance trap) were off. A new magic show, produced by Paul Osborne, was in rehearsal in the Vaudeville Theatre and as a result was not seen. It was set to open in late June.

The entertainment value of Old Chicago is an incredible bargain nowadays and we highly recommend it. One word of caution, however -- take along your ear plugs!

THE BARRY MILLER TROUPE is working at the fair at Escanaba, Mich. this week (Aug. 17-22).

JAIL TERM (Continued)

his wire walk over Yosemite Falls on July 12th. He was also fined \$500 and ordered to pay any expenses incurred by the park service or its concessionaire.

U. S. Magistrate Donald Pitts said a term of the probation bars McPeak from giving interviews or making public comment about his daring walk. "I can't prevent his press agent, or girl friend or anyone else from saying anything they want about this matter. But as my probationer, I think I can control what he says about the matter."

McPeak, who rode a unicycle over the 1,400 ft. drop, was arrested when he came down off the wire. He pleaded guilty to creating a hazardous condition and to doing his act without a permit and injury to natural features in a national park.

ATTENTION.....

ROYSTON DAVENPORT - please come home - all is forgiven. Love...Heidi, Chris and Betty

Pot-Pourri

The Bauers swaypole act at The Great Adventure theme park in Jackson, N.J. is popular with the public visiting the park.

Pat Bissonette dashed off to Minnesota for a grand re-union with the family.

The Fabulous Fantanas, cycles, and the Michael Angelo Comedy Painters worked Don Francisco's Pan American Mall Show at Menlo Park Mall (N.J.) Aug. 10-14. Also appearing there were the Miller Family and Grimaldi Musical Clown feature. Mike Naughton

WANTED

Booking Agent for small indoor circus. Must also be able to work Phone Promotion and Banners.

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