

8th Year

July 16, 1979

Number 29

Dobritch at Wheaton

The Dobritch International Circus appeared for its third season for the Du Page County Sheriff's Association at Wheaton, Ill., June 21-24. Ten performances were given in four days to a significant rise in attendance, the best since producer Sandy Dobritch pacted this annual circus date three years ago.

The gas crunch was cited for the increased attendance when people found it easier to find entertainment in their back yard rather than traveling away from home. This might be a barometer for circuses in the future, if the circus and its performers can find ways and means to get to the date.

The standard of performance for this date has always been excellent, but Sandy Dobritch produced the best of his circus editions with this 1979 circus. Every act was top calibre and each was extremely well received, including perennial hold-overs Vashek & Kathy (five years) and Mister Sensation (four years).

The program featured: Overture with Boom Boom Browning, musical director; National Anthem; Introduction of Notables; Jorge Bar-

reda's lions; Princess Mafalda; Norbu, the Almost Human Gorilla; Clowns with Mother Hubbard; Mister Sensation, aerial; Clowns with the Long Shirt; My-Immba's Baboons; the Great Jose-lito, high wire; Intermission.

Second half overture; The Flying Lanes; the

(Continued on Page 19)

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BENTLEY BROS. CIRCUS . . . by Jim Parker

Bentley Bros. Circus played San Bernardino, Calif., June 16-17, with performances at the Swing Auditorium.

The program featured: Introduction of Sponsor; Flag Presentation with performers and May Pole and Rider with Flag; Lawrence Grant, wild animals; Wini McKay, single trapeze; Clowns, Harry Ross and Bob Emerico with TV Camera; Miss Roberta, neck slide; Miss Wendany, Miss Risdon, Miss Ironberg, dressage horses; The Astro Bros., double death walk on cable; Princess Elana Omar, one finger stand; Miss Lani, rope spinning; Miss Heidi, juggling; Chester Cable, foot juggler; The Wazzan Family, arab tumblers; Karl Astro, chair balancing; the Great Huberto, slide for life; Intermision; The Valencias, flying act; Clowns with the Chicken Cannon; Los Latinos, tightwire; Wazzan Family, trampoline; Astro Bros., comedy table; The Locos, comedy; Clown Harry Ross; Miss Wendany, dogs; Miss Tina, dogs; the Astro Bros., motorcycle on the highwire; Kaye's Hollywood Elephants (2) presented by Ben DeWayne.

It was noted that everything from ring curbs to props and backdrop were spic 'n span and painted red and white. The whole atmosphere spelled "Circus".

An eight piece band, under the direction of Virginia Lee Fenton with Chuck Gomes on drums worked at this date, giving Bentley Bros. Circus a real professional and big time appearance.

The big show announcer was Tommy Bentley and his vast show business experience was very evident in the layout of the show and the fast paced program. He also takes an active part in the clown numbers and

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becomes a very important asset to the alley in selling the gags, all of which went over well.

Perhaps something unique in the Bentley Bros. Circus appearance here in San Bernardino was the large turnout among the retired, active show business community from the greater Los Angeles area. It was as if they had turned out enmasse to pay tribute to their friend and colleague, Tommy. Both he and his partner, Chuck Clancy, did not let them down in bringing a first class show to this area. Both Tommy and Chuck are known in the business for their friendliness and each and every visitor was made to feel at home and there was great pride in those sitting in the "show biz" section when Tommy stepped to the microphone and blew the whistle to start his own show.

The performers themselves sense this pride and all of them performed at their very peak. It is a happy show for the "kinkers" to be with.

Tommy and Chuck have worked very hard and have come a long way and it was the wish of all of those present that all of us in this area, in this business, wish them both the very best of success. I am sure that as time goes on Bentley Bros. Circus will continue to grow and in the near future will become a very important part of the circus world.

Visitors at the show on June 16th included: Chatta Weber, Ester Escalante, Jim Swafford, Marie Boxley, Paul Kaye, Mr. and Mrs. George Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Burnes and sons, Robert Locke Lorraine, Jerry Loose, Tim Cooney, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith, Smokey Jones, Kari Jones, Oddy Doddy, Bob Kellogg, Susie Kasielbe, Bobby Kay, Mingo, Jim Parker and Judy Kaye.

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

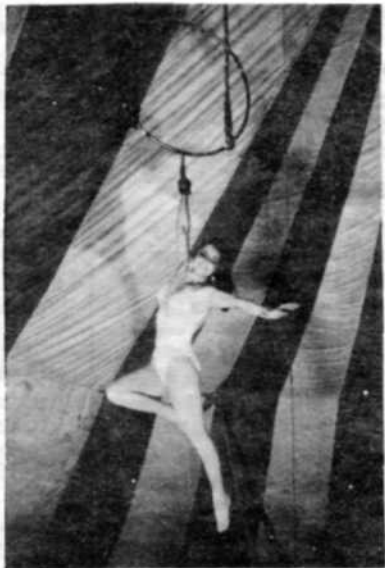
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SHOW DATES

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Circus Vargas

July 6-8 Vancouver, Wash
9-11 Chehalis
12-16 Tacoma
17-19 Mt. Vernon

Allan C. Hill Productions Present Great American Circus

July 16 Lehighton, Pa.
17 Selinsgrove
18 Shenandoah
19 Hazleton
20 Alden
21 Moscow
22 Carbondale

Tommy Hanneford Circus

to Sept. 12 Middletown, Oh.

Hubler Int'l Circus

July 21 Hagerstown, Md.
22-23 Cumberland

Bill Kay Circus

July 20-21 Wheeling, W. Va.

Make-A-Circus

July 17 Oakland, Calif.
19 Redwood City

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

July 17-29 Houston, Texas

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

July 17-31 Inglewood, Calif.

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

July 17-21 Independence, Mo.

Wallenda Circus

July 21 Parkersburg, W. Va.

---- MAGIC ----

Blackstone the Magician

July 17-22 Des Moines, Iowa

Mid-West Magic Jubilee

July 20-22 St. Louis, Mo.

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA

July 16 Barnesboro, Pa.
19 Williamsport
20 Frackville
21 Tamaqua

Tom Ogden - Magician

July 19-21 St. Louis, Mo.

---- OTHER DATES ----

Century 21 Shows - Red/Blue
to July 21 Peoria, Ill.

Judy Collins Show

July 16-17 Westbury, NY
22-23 Ambler, Pa.

James H. Drew Exposition

July 16-21 Olney, Ill.

Ethel's Greyhounds

to July 22 Montreal, Quebec

Foley & Burk Shows

to July 21 Santa Rosa, Cal.

Hal Haviland - Dogs and Pony

to Oct. 8 Lincoln, N.H.

Ice Fever - Ice Show

July 19-22 Richmond, Cal.

Kaye Hollywood Elephants

to July 22 Moosic, Pa.

Lipko's Comedy Chimps

to July 21 Peoria, Ill.

Los Latinos - Wire Act

July 21 Hagerstown, Md.
22-23 Cumberland

Mr. Sensation - Aerialist

July 21 Hagerstown, Md.
22-23 Cumberland

Mighty Thomas Shows

July 17-21 Red Deer, Alberta.

The Sikorskys - Jugglers

to July 22 Canobie Lake, NH

The Stardusters - High Act

July 17-21 Kingston, Ont.

Tent Troupe

July 16 Muskegon, Mich.
18 Charlotte
19 Jackson
21 Westland

Tip Top Shows - Blue Unit

July 19-22 Luxemburg, Wsc

Tip Top Shows - Green Unit

July 17-22 Baraboo, Wsc.



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The Coroner has ruled that elephant trainer Morgan Berry died from injuries inflicted by his pet elephant. There is a possibility that he was stricken by a heart attack prior to being injured, but officials said it was impossible to determine if that had happened.

"He might have survived a heart attack, but he couldn't possibly have survived from those injuries," an official said.



THE COLUMN turns social this week with the account of HERTA CUNEO's fabulous "invitation only" party for the Dobritch Circus on June 25, at their Frank Lloyd Wright home topping the verdant estate at Grayslake (Ill). It was a catered affair, a pool side party beginning in the afternoon and lasting 'til midnight and gets my vote as the "Circus party of the year". JOHN CUNEO who'd flown to Norfolk for the closing of the Hamid show returned in time for the Monday afternoon festivities and joined his popular wife in welcoming their show business guests. Most of the acts with the Dobritch Circus stayed over an extra day in Wheaton to attend with the exceptions of VASHEK and KATHY (who had a big jump to fairs in Western Canada) and CARMEN and AURELIA HALL (who took their new Boles Aeros Trailer to Elkhart for modifications and had no chance to change the appointment). Those at the party included Arden and Norbert, and Noby-Arden, the entire Barreda family, Jimmy Douglass, Vern Woerner, Bobby Davis, the four Flying Lanes, John McKay, Rick and Sharon Legg, Michele, Nicole and Sandy Dobritch, James and Malfalda Zoppe and Beth, Jo Ann Jennier, Rocky Rebideaux and the writer.

Imagine my surprise when CORKY CRISTIANI arrived with her husband COMMANDER J. CHANNON BOWES. I hadn't seen Corky since out stint at MGM in the early 60's and we had plenty to dish about! Corky - sleek, slender and soigne (and a glamorous Gloria Swanson lookalike) - is the same fun-loving gal we always knew despite her marriage to wealthy and social Bowes, who has an insurance company in Chicago and also works with the U. N.

In the midst of the swinging party the BARREDA family had to leave unexpectedly when a phone call signaled the final negotiations for JOSELITO to appear at Magic Mountain, opening immediately and closing Sept. 4th. But not before they (and many others) were driven by John to the Animal Winter Quarters, finally completed this year, which as to be the Hilton of Animal Hotels.

The facilities here are the most exemplary to be found anywhere. The main building houses special areas for each species, a mammoth tiger room with large cages constructed on a concrete foundation which can be heated. The cages are roomy and animals can be shifted to any cage via a catwalk and can also be chuted into an indoor practice cage. There is an unusual elephant room with a sloping floor and a special track which retrieves manure and sends it to a conveyor, thence a shredder and into a dumpster where the manure is then spread over the fields

(Cuneo grows his own hay). There is also a special practice area for the elephants, special housing for the help, walk-in freezers, an office for John with panoramic viewing windows, and a "bear house and pool" where Herta's bears now languish in the epitome of luxury!

Even those performers who are not animal people were impressed (I was one!) and animal people were delighted with the ingenious and thoughtful construction.

Meanwhile, back at the estate, the party moved into high gear - in the pool, the shooting range, the tennis courts, the playground (where nearby are kept Herta's two tiger cub pets, Mork and Mindy) or just taking in the lush acreage, the lake, or watching for white deer fenced in a grazing area (John and Herta are soon adding white elk).

What can we say about the incredible Frank Lloyd Wright house designed by that illustrious architect and his son! It is all jutting wood and glass and angles, sitting in idyllic isolation atop a knoll overlooking a lake.

A marvelous time was had by everyone and the bartender sure was kept busy!

CLOSEUPS: DORIS of Feller Boys and Do Do had a baby girl. . . SUSAN ZOPPE won the \$50 bet with husband DAVIDE when she worked right up to the very last minute before the baby came, born in Sherbrooke, Quebec, on the Gatini Circus, 5 lbs - 9 Oz., and named JUSTINO ZOPPE. Susan writes that they are really enjoying their tour with Gatini. . . MICHELE and NICOLE DOBRITCH accompanied SANDY to the Wheaton date and were the spotlight operators - and damn good ones, too! . . . LOU ANN JACOBS is with a Gatini unit. . . PAT LANE broke the frame of his 5th wheel on that very bad I-55 from St. Louis to Chicago (when ARE they going to do something about the terrible condition of the nation's interstates?). . .

The HERRIOTT FAMILY is no longer with Circus Vargas. . . Selling tickets on the show is PATTI RUCKER. . . NORBU was a very big success at St. Louis Shrine Circus. He also did a special TV show in that city using - of all people - BOOM BOOM BROWNING as the stooge! . . . MONTE CARLO definitely going to Australia for 14 weeks in 1980. . . JORGE BARREDA, JOSELITO, JIMMY DOUGLASS & Co. among those already signed for the Pittsburgh Circus in Nov. . . The St. Louis Shrine Circus may go indoors next year and extend its run to ten days. . . The KLEMEN-TIS played the Calgary Stampede along with VASHEK

(Continued on Page 10)

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REPORT

EMMETT KELLY, Jr. Circus . . by Jim Parker

The Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus gave three shows at Lake Elsinore, Calif., on June 23rd, playing at the rodeo grounds near Lake Elsinore itself. The temperature was near 100 and there was no relief from the sun since the rgrounds were void of trees or shade of any kind.

The program included: Overture by Virginia Lee Fen-ton; Introduction of Emmett Kelly, Jr.; The Great Huberto, slide for life; Chester Cable, foot juggling; Emmett Kelly, Jr.; Bruce Anderson, sway pole act; Princess Elana Omar, one finger stand; Intermission; Los Latinos, tightwire; Wini McKay, single trapeze; Emmett Kelly, Jr.; Carol Cheney with elephant "Baby Tarra."

Visitors at the show included: Smokey Jones, Kari Jones, Robert Locke Lorraine, Jerry Loose, Mingo and the writer.

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Show Date

INT'L MAGIC EXTRAVAGANZA

. . . . by Ralph F. Hartman

The Int'l Magic Extravaganza came to San Antonio on June 30th for a single performance. The show is basically the same as the All Star Circus reviewed earlier, with the addition on George Cahill & Co., illusionists. More emphasis is placed on magic than circus and the band does not play circus music.

Incidentally, the band here consisted of 5 pieces, with organ, drums, trombone and 2 trumpets. It was very good and was amplified well.

All of the people on the show are handsome and well dressed and costumed. Even those moving props are wearing formal attire. In all, it is a very classy show.

The program here featured: Overture by the band; Magic and Illusions by George Cahill & Co. (3) doing *torn napkin trick, crystal casket production, and a sword box type of illusion*; Rafael's Poodles (Vasquez) starts out like the late Victor Julian act, then goes into more complicated tricks; The Cycling Terrys (O'Brien), unicycle; Hines Rucker with his illusion, sawing a boys head off; George Cahill & Co. and the Zig Zag; Bonnie & Clyde, musical number; Color Book Pitch and Intermission; George Cahill and Lisa, illusion where lady is divided into several parts in the cabinet; *The Pork Chop Revue* (Uncle Heavy was ill and his wife and son worked two big pigs and also displayed a small piglet); Popcorn the clown, juggling; Vasquez Chimp act; Clowns; the Cahills with the levitation act; Ventriloquist act.

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Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros.

by ALBERT F. HOUSE

Business was good at both Allentown, Pa. and Manapalan Mall, near Freehold, N. J. for the Beatty-Cole Circus.

The Allentown date was at Crest Mall, a small shopping center in Whitehall Twp. just west of Allentown. The Date was handled by Dave Bechtel.

Although the mall was not big, business was fairly strong, and the promotion was good. Allentown is a good circus town, and by getting into the area and promoting it properly, there will be good business.

The gas crisis in Penna. was handled fairly well because the show was able to get a priority from the Governor's Office in Harrisburg, and when the tanker needed gas, the show could apply to Harrisburg, get their local supplier to give them the gas, and all was well.

The Penna. dates were all fairly good, with Muncy being the best. Bob Kleinman was responsible for the promotion there.

Allentown was the place where two show people ended up in the hospital. Trevor Bale had internal bleeding from an operation he underwent this past winter and which has failed to heal properly. The other casualty was Jimmy James. He seeming had a blocked intestine. Both left the hospital in Allentown, drove into Jersey, and Bale returned to the hospital. The rest of the Bale family are doing their acts. During the absence of Bale and James, bandleader Gene Nichols was doing the announcing. When James returned he took over the announcing once again.

The show had to put in a new axle on the pole trailer the original problem seemed to be connected with the brakes, but when the tires were removed and they started work on them it was discovered the unit had a cracked axle. After canvassing all the local trailer dealers an axle that would fit was found and the entire rearend was rebuilt. Fortunately, all the replacement parts were available locally. If they hadn't been the show would have had quite a task gillying things from one stand to the next.

The help supply has been short, but the show moves with few delays. George Buttery has the canvas crew up and about early in the day after moving nights, and has a crew of about 8 young men, with his two assistants, Barry Young and Sheepskin, whose name has never been available to me. With Young and Sheepskin dividing the chores that amount to rigging, pole placement, tying off the big top stakes, and the other details, Buttery is free to supervise the younger inexperienced men as the canvas is spread, stakes driven, etc. He has the time down to about 2½ hours for

set up. His crew is also responsible for erecting two seat trailers in the front end (Marquee) of the top. It only takes a few minutes and gives the crew a chance to rest, from about 9:30 a.m. to about 10:30 a.m. Not included is time for breakfast.

The big top crew should consist of about 14 men, but that is not always possible. The local promoter sometimes arranges for local help and some is obtained from specific businesses that specialize in temporary employees.

The concession dept., has a full crew. The people that run the various specialties are: Robert Williams, popcorn, Dennis Walker, cotton candy, Mike Maloney, snow cones, and Mike and Charlotte Rawls, the midway diner. Harry Rawls is concession manager.

Performance Notes: Dave Hoover has added another tiger to his act, making the number 5 in all. Tina Storey is with the show, appearing as Mlle. Angela as a juggler and later as Marie Christine, trapeze performer. The two horses worked by the Bale sisters are the Lipizzan Lady Amber worked by Bonnie and the Palomino Alladin worked by Gloria.

Now that Jimmy James is doing the announcing, Sandy Kozek (Kaye) is doing the color book pitch and the autograph party at intermission. Sandy has developed very well. Hans Ruwill has a new gimmick for his plate spinning act. At the finale there are flashing running lights to highlight the end of the act. Each year Hans comes up with something new to increase the act's impact. Semon has six chimps and his finale of having three chimps do a handstand on a perch pole is a crowd pleaser. It never fails to draw a good round of applause.

Because of the recent fatal accident in New Jersey with an uncaged act, the Beatty-Cole management has taken steps to prevent any such accident on this show. During the chimps and bear acts a net is set up to prevent people from wandering behind the act. In addition announcements are made reminding parents and children not to wander from their seats during the animal acts. In total, the management has worked out a solution to a very sticky and emotional problem in New Jersey.

(Continued on Page 19)

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Flash

During a performance of the Big John Strong Circus at Xenia, Ohio, the show was interrupted by a bad storm warning. This gave them just time enough to empty the tent of the matinee crowd. When the wind hit it took down a part of the big top.

The tent was repaired and the evening performance went on as scheduled. No injuries were reported.

Both Circus Girard and Kelly Bros. Circus were playing in the same general area, but when the storm hit these shows it was not during a performance time. No report on damage has been obtained at press time.

Benson's Wild Animal Farm has gained a Walleroo as a result of a court action which claimed that the Commerford Show had failed in two legal requirements. The Walleroo had been released by pranksters as the Commerford Show was loading in preparation for its jump into Conn.

The court ruled that Commerford had failed to leave forwarding claims of ownership with the Humane Society and that it had crossed a state line after the alleged abandonment of the animal. As a result of a plea bargaining program it was agreed that the Walleroo would be donated to the children of New Hampshire.

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Circus Acts

The program presented June 30-July 1 at Pine Mountain, Ga., by the Royal Danish Circus featured the following acts: Al Sahlstrom, ringmaster; Koko and Curly, clowns; The Almiros, juggling; The Little Hobos, dogs; Miss Carmen, tightwire; Curly the Clown with magic; Randy & Sylvia, perch; Howard's Chimp act; Jimmy Hernandez, rola bola; Johnson's Bears; Curly and Koko, the Madcap Clowns; Rosita and Alberto, plate spinning; Miss La Von, cloud swing; The Hernandez Troupe, teeterboard, and a Balloon-A-Rama Finale.

The program presented by Acuarama On Pade in South America features: Royal London Ballet with 26 English dancers doing 8 productions; Victor Moreno as the Pink Panther; Astillita, Jr., clown; Kocka Troupe, teeterboard and Russian swing; Katinka's Poodles; Judith Alegria, aerialist; Santos Alegerio, chimps; Sabu Alegrio, balancing trapeze; Christina's sea lions; Jupiter's triple trapeze; Nock Bros., sway poles, plus Vince Carmen, illusionist, assisted by 4 boys and 2 girls and featuring Dolly Gee.

PEOPLE

TONY De ROSA, RAY MARTIN, and LAURA PASQUAROSA, magicians, have teamed up to present the "World of Magic" at Monterey, Calif., on Aug. 12-13th.

Miscellaneous

Cavalier magazine for June 1979 has a story about the Hoxie Bros. Circus.



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Billy Barton (Continued)

& **KATHY**. Kathy's new yellow rhinestoned lattice-work costume is absolutely fabulous. . . **MARC SCHULTZ** bounced in bright and bubbly during the Wheaton date showing off his muscles. He wins body building contests in the Chicago area. . . **CHERIE TROY** also visited and is still appearing five days a week at a local night club. . . **THE SWAYING STARS** will be with Circo Atayde this winter. . . Both **JAMES and MALFALDA ZOPPE** were injured during the St. Louis run: because of a slippery mat the horses had unsteady underfooting and James hurt his neck in the somersault and Malfalda struck her tailbone on a ring curb. The couple are okay now.

ANGELS OF MERCY: EVY FOSSETT took off for Germany to care for her ailing mother. . . Ditto **SARA MILLER** who went to Mexico. . . and **ELFIE KLEMENTI** who spent time in Austria.

Flash!

TOSCA SCHROERS, high wire artist, fell 40 feet during a performance of Circus Barun in Munich, West Germany, last month. Her husband managed to break her fall, but even then she was hospitalized in serious condition with several broken bones.

Hospital attendants reported the circus performer will be retained for some time. "Without her husband's presence of mind in catching her, she probably would have been killed," they said.

The indestructible **AURELIA HALL** is back in action after her recent successful hip operation and although she still carries the cane she no longer needs it. Well, it may no longer be necessary for walking, but it sure as hell deters arguments!

See you down the road, luvvs.

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SPECIAL

(The following information has been taken from the Mattel, Inc., Quarterly Report to Stockholders, for the three months ending May 5, 1979. To fully understand the Mattel position this information should be read in conjunction with the company's full report)

Mattel's Entertainment Group enjoyed an increase of 14% in volume and 15% in operating profit for fiscal 1979. The year was also a record breaking year in increased attendance, increased revenues and increased profits for Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. The show gave 1,000 performances during the year to some 7 million spectators.

There were also three one hour network TV shows produced by Ringling Bros. which were viewed by

worldwide television audiences estimated at more than 100 million.

Circus World Park in Florida reported a 59% increase in revenues with attendance increasing at 35%, and for the first time in its seven year history reported an operating profit before interest and depreciation.

In March 1979, Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. acquired the ice show operations of Ice Follies and Holiday on Ice for approximately \$12 million cash and the assumption of certain obligations.

A decline in the earnings of Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined shows related principally to acquisition and start-up costs for the recently acquired ice shows, start-up and operating costs of the International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo, and lower attendance levels of the travelling circus in some cities.

By Crane



Miscellaneous

In Ontario a new law calls for the arrest of truck drivers who follow another truck as close as 200 feet or less.

Teddy, the 27 year old chimp from the J. Fred Muggins Enterprises died at Tampa, Fla. on June 10th. Teddy was frequently seen on TV shows.

The Beatty-Cole Circus lost its opening matinee at Allentown, Pa., when the big top pole truck was damaged after it had two blow outs. The tires were damaged from nails thrown on the highway by local striking truck drivers.

Circus Genoa has been drawing full and straw houses in Michigan. The show is using a "Free Kids Ticket" and playing "cold" dates with this system.

PEOPLE

CLARA and WILLIE LAMBERTI, retired high wire performers, were featured in a picture story about their circus lives in the Pharos-Tribune of Logansport (Ind) on July 1st. At one time they worked with the Great Gretonas.

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In Memoriam

MIKE KREKOS (84) founder of the West Coast Shows and an active member of the Showfolks in San Francisco, died of a heart attack in San Francisco on June 10th. He came to this country at the age of 15 and started in the carnival business in 1928. He sold his carnival to Bobby Cohen in 1965. Survivors include his wife, Lola, and several neices and nephews.

CHUCK JONES, magician, is working on the Board Walk in Santa Cruz, Calif., doing three shows a day through Aug. 8th.

CLARK'S LIONS

5 CAT CAGE ACT

SOME OPEN TIME IN 1979

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Acts

Acts appearing in the 1979 Summer Season (June 27 thru Sept. 4) at the Circus Hall of Fame include:

The Adams Family, chimps and dogs; Erik and Bobby, balancing act; The Bruski Family, juggling on an unicycle; Andromeda, ballerina on the balancing ladder; Alfredo Landon, clowning; Mitzie Joyce, organist; Charles Moyer, ringmaster/director; Roger Taube magic/illusions, assisted by his wife Kelly.

Miscellaneous

The Al G. Barnes Ring of the CMB will hold an exhibit of miniature circuses at the Anaheim (Calif.) Convention Center, Aug. 3-5, during the Ringling-Barnum Circus engagement in that city.

Members of the Felix Adler Tent CFA were hosts for some 46 CFA's from The Netherlands when they visited Ringling-Barnum at Madison Square Garden on May 28th.

The Monte Carlo Circus reportedly has cancelled its scheduled engagement at Madison Square Garden, That date was to have started on Oct. 3rd.

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PEOPLE

CURLY-N-CUE, clowns, have moved next door to RALPH "Koto" HENDERSON, at 7405 No. Market St., Spokane, Wash. 99207. Their home has become the headquarters for Spokane Alley No. 46 COA.

SUE HILL, of Mobile, Ala., has joined the Beatty-Cole Circus as a Marketing Director.

DON PHILIPS and family stopped off to visit with the PAUL KELLY Family while enroute to Chicago and the Bozo TV Show.

Carson & Barnes Circus has been drawing good business as it moves through Iowa and Illinois. They are expected to play their usual route through Minn., Wisc., Ill., Ohio and Kentucky.

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EMMETT KELLY, Jr. Circus . . . by Martha Jackson

The Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus which was held June 23 at Lake Elsinore (Calif) seemed to be in the middle of nowhere.

It was a one ring outdoor circus held at the rodeo arena. There wasn't a tree in sight for shade, but there was lots of dirt, wind and heat. Considering the adverse conditions all performers did very well and attendance was good at all three shows.

One big disappointment was that the lion act never arrived.

The following acts were enjoyed by all and presented by the ringmaster Miss Kelly. The Great Huberto with his stand-up slide for life is always a thriller; Chester Cable juggling a 135 lb table deserves great praise; Princess Omar does a one finger balancing act which is outstanding and as far as I know is the only woman performing this feat. Emmett Kelly, Jr. was the only clown, but he held the interest of all by pantomime and obtained many laughs.

Bruce Anderson performed on a sway pole and even though he had to contend with strong winds he thrilled all by doing a hand balance at 90 ft. Wini McKay on her circular trapeze is a beautiful sight to behold. Her act is outstanding and ends in a back balance while spinning. (First time I've seen Wini perform and hope its not my last). The Los Latinos do a tightwire act which I have always enjoyed and look forward to seeing the act again.

The last act on the program was the baby elephant

BRETT SHOCKLEY, unicyclist, holds the world's record for riding the tallest unicycle, 51 ft. high. He is currently working on what will be the world's smallest bicycle, with a wheel diameter of 9/16 in.

RUSS MANNING, artist who has been drawing the Tarzan cartoon strip since 1963, has discontinued his connections with that comic strip. He will continue to draw the "Star Wars" comic strip.

JOHN RYAN, who has trouped with most of the major circuses in the country and for several years was with the Pickle Family Circus, is now working in the last San Francisco blacksmith shop.

In Memoriam

GENE VERCHESKI (52) designer and builder of circus and show projects, died of a heart attack on June 25th at a Venice, Fla. hospital. He built rides for the Royal American Shows, and built equipment for the Ringling-Barnum Circus, Royal Hanneford and other shows, including Holiday On Ice and the Ice Capades. He designed and built the rocket cannon which shoots a man through space.

handled by Carol Cheney. This elephant is very well trained.

The music throughout the show was individually selected for each performer by Virginia Lee Fenton which was played by her on an electric organ. She was accompanied by Chuck on the drums.

Long live the circus!

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SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

Phil Sadler, prop man on Int'l Magic Show, has left to join Beatty-Cole's clown alley under Jimmy James. Phil has always wanted to do clowning, but he never really had a chance until offered a job by Jimmy. We wish Phil lots of good luck.

We have learned that "Midway" the new amusement paper which bowed several weeks ago is having mail problems. A phone call to Lewis in Florida confirmed this and John hopes to have the problem straightened out soon. John Lewis expressed concern that rumors have surfaced concerning Circus Report, and states he has always been a big booster of the paper and has taken it since the very first and will continue to do so. John says "Circus Report is the finest circus paper on the American scene today. Don was a big help to me in getting my paper out. I just hope we can present the entertainment news of the whole industry as good as Don does with Circus Report. We have a lot to learn and are learning by trial and error."

Carden-Johnson lost all three of their elephants to poisoning. This is a shame as elephants aren't easy to come by these days. This makes 7 or 8 elephants that

have died on shows during the year, several were young Africans. As inflation continues to rise so does the cost of replacing animals.

This writer was amused at the "No Elephants" story in CR on June 25th. One could tell that writer has no love for animals and especially elephants. If one were to follow his advice we'd get rid of our cars and just about everything because they consume enormous amounts of resources, generate huge amounts of waste that pollute and so on. The crowning point was his *question of terrorists getting possession of a herd of elephants and holding a city for ransom.* All I can say is that writer ought to write Science Fiction.

Word from St. Louis is that two acts failed to show up for the Shrine Circus and that opening night was a near disaster, but things improved afterwards. The local media gave the show lots of coverage. Two acts mentioned in ads were the Rix Bears and Zamudio, and Norbu. The show was held in Busch Stadium on June 14-18.

Popcorn and his partner Ectra do an excellent pantomime gag with newspaper, chair and ending with the long shirt, on the Int'l Magic Show. If you get a chance be sure to catch this production. The levitation performed by George Cahill is beautiful. Bonnie Earl does more than a creditable job singing in the background, which adds class to the entire production. Listening to Bonnie is worth the price of admission. Hines Rucker is an excellent announcer and is backed by an excellent band.

The current issue of Better Homes & Garden has a page of advertising by Kodak that features some shots of Ringling's Circus World clowns. The June 11th issue of the St. Louis Dispatch has a full page story on Karen and Larry French who handle the Cristiani elephants. It is a great story with photos.

Remember James Haley? He was once manager of the Greatest Show on Earth. Mr. Haley retired from the House of Representatives in 1976. It was in 1948 that he resigned from RBBB and was elected to the House of Representatives (Florida) and then was re-elected in 1950. He has now retired to a slower life in Sarasota, according to columnist Helen Griffith, of the Sarasota Herald.

The Shriners Circus parade for the St. Louis Shrine Circus in June had a traditional calliope leading the parade. It was to announce the opening of the 37th annual Moolah Shrine Circus and had all the ear-marks of an old time circus parade with bands, clowns and marching units. The St. Louis Shrine Circus is billed as the world's largest.

NOTE....

Those wishing to send cards, letters or petitions in support of the proposed Wallenda Commemorative Stamp should send them to: Mr. William Bolger, Postmaster General, U. S. Postal Service, Washington, DC 20260.

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HOTLINE

The Rev. James D. Percy, known as the Circus pastor and his wife, Mary, were involved in a motorcycle accident on June 8th, just north of Greenville, Pa. They were going out to eat after having attended a Luthern Seminar, when they were forced off the road by another vehicle.

Mary Percy was admitted to the Greenville Hospital with a broken back, fractured left shoulder, sprained left ankle, and various cuts and bruises. She has since been released and is being cared for by her two sons and daughter.

Rev. Percy was sent to Youngstown Northside Hospital with a severe head injury, a broken left collarbone and shoulder, and various lacerations. He developed a blood clot on the left side of the brain and after slipping into a deep coma had to have surgery to remove the clot. At the present time he is still in intensive care and is slowly recovering.

Rev. Percy and his family were recently with Hoxie Bros. Circus, Royal Ranch Wild West Circus, and several other shows.

Cards and letters may be sent to: Rev. James Percy, 5100 Brownsville Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15236.

PEOPLE

THE STARDUSTERS will be at the Kingston Exhibition in Ontario July 17-21, and at Man and His World in Montreal July 24-Aug. 5th.

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Show Report

ROBERTS BROS. CIRCUS... by R. J. Bryan

Russ and Judy Bryan, along with Jack and Alice Tre-ser, visited the Roberts Bros. Circus when it played at Harlansburg, Pa., on June 26th. The date was under the auspices of the local Volunteer Fire Dept.

Roberts Bros. Circus is a good clean show with an interesting performance that appeals to both young and old alike. Both the show owned and privately owned vehicles are in good shape, with the exception of the tent, for their new top had not yet arrived.

The performance runs about 1½ hours and features the Earl Family, Dave Brown, from Erie, Pa., the Marsaez Family, Joe Myers and family. Joe is the producing clown, and since the Bryans are in the clown business they spent some time talking with Joe and helping in the novelties.

For its engagement here the show had good weather and two nice houses, and a nice show lot.

JOHN HERRIOTT is currently in Mexico with Circo Atayde, serving as an animal trainer and consultant.

DORIAN BLAKE, illusionist, toured N.C., Texas and Louisiana June 21-29, along with COCO the Clown and his Musical Comix in the Holiday Cavalcade Show.

THE STEBBING FAMILY will produce the 1979 Showfolks Circus in Sarasota in December.

TOM INABINETTE has been appointed National Advance Coordinator for the Beatty-Cole Circus.

SPECIAL

TOMMY BARTLETT

One time radio and television star, Tommy Bartlett quit broadcasting at the height of his career and says too many performers think their success will go on forever.

"A producer has a rather fragile product to sell," says Tommy, who hosted such network shows as "Welcome Travelers" and "Meet the Missus" before starting his water skiing show in 1951.

Bartlett, now 64, began in show business in 1929 as an announcer on a Milwaukee radio station. He was just 14 years old.

"I think a lot of people fail to prepare for the future," he said in an interview. "A lot of people think if they're successful with their present business enterprise, that it's going to go on forever.

"Just look at how television eats up talent today. People who were heroes five years ago are playing nothing but state fairs today."

Bartlett says many entertainers reach the top and then slowly begin to take on inferior assignments.

DOBRITCH AT WHEATON (Continued)

Clowns with A-Cure-Puncture; James Zoppe Royale Resinback Riders; Vashek & Kathy, aerial motorcycle; Exit March.

The Paul Kaye Hollywood Elephants, scheduled to close the show, arrived after being involved in a bad accident and were unable to work.

Clowns on the date included: Rick Legg, John Mc Kay, David Chabira and Rocky Rebideaux, with Jimmy Douglass, producing. Equipment was furnished by Circus Creations, with Vern Woerner in charge of it and the lighting. The Big Top was furnished by Florida Tent Rental, with Walt Davis, supt. Bobby Davis was the property boss.

The Dobritch International Circus is produced by Sandy Dobritch of Las Vegas. He is also the show's ringmaster, announcer.

Visitors at Wheaton included: Herta and John Cuneo, Stu Miller's Magic show unit (which parked overnight) John Goodall, Cherie Troy, the Zamperla Family, Jo Ann Jennier, Jeannine Hall, Roger La Mothe and family, Saul Shafton and wife, Marc Schultz, Jack Armstrong and wife, and Chuck Marine.

Mailroom

Circus Report mailed to the following people were returned this past week by the Post Office who says the "Addressee Is Unknown".

E. Clark Murrish

Marvin Seabright

"I didn't want to do that," he said. "So I quit right at the top."

"Performers, as they get older, ought to be in a part of show business where it's not necessary to perform every day."

Bartlett, a high school drop out, said his main problem had been a lack of attention and he had been more interested in running the school's public address system than in classes.

A family friend gave him a crystal set. He could pick up Milwaukee's lone station, and on good nights, KDKA in Pittsburgh.

"I became enamored of people speaking in other cities, or in other parts of town, and being able to hear them without wires, he recalls.

So consuming was his interest that he quit school.

"I just wasn't interested in school," he says, "I thought it was a waste of time."

PEOPLE

MANZINI, escape artist, will attempt to escape from a packing case on Aug. 5th. He will be handcuffed, then nailed into the box, plus ropes and chains, with the box being dropped into the Hudson River off the 52nd Street Pier in New York City.

BEATTY-COLE (Continued)

During Tina Storey's trapeze number, just before intermission, there are 13 girls on the ladders. There are seven on the front track and six on the backside. The flying act, the Alvarez Flying Act, has a budding star on its hands. 12 year old Martin Alvarez started doing the triple with regularity in Allentown and has not missed a show since. This young man is surely going places, so watch for him.

The elephant act is announced as presented by the Logan Family and they are certainly in abundance. In Ring 1 are Freida and Eileen, in the center ring are Fred and Ora (mother and father), and children Walter and Lillian.

Elephant Dept. Notes: All 13 elephants of the Universal Circus Corp. are carried. Only during the opening long mount are all of them displayed and worked.

Bessie and Topsy came over from Sells & Gray, while Ola and Konti came from the King show. Their Handler, Bob Kline, is also here.

Working Ring 1 is Eileen with Pete, Sue and Helen; while the center ring has three babies Omi, Missy and Debbie. In Ring 3 Allen Kuenzie works with Elba, Walker showing Freida, Maud and Jewell.

To carry all the animals, elephant truck No. 60 has been brought back and the elephants from the two little shows are carried in it.