

7th Year

October 16, 1978

Number 42

Fair Raided

A team of 40 IRS agents raided the State Fair at Oklahoma City and seized about 200 coin operated gaming machines and other equipment on the fairgrounds. The gaming devices were being "operated without special tx stamps required by law," according to Bob Deurbrouck, an IRS public relations officer.

No arrests were made in the civil action, the first of its kind at the Oklahoma State Fair. The IRS did not estimate the dollar value of the seized equipment or how many game operators were affected. A \$250 tax stamp is required as a permit to operate certain coin operated gaming devices.

The IRS action came after search warrants had been obtained from the U. S. District Court in Oklahoma City.

The agents worked for about three hours rounding up the machines and other equipment which was pulled away by tow trucks. The equipment was taken to federal property where it was to be inventoried.

The machines seized reportedly included a pennyfall game in which tokens are inserted and the machine pushes a prize into a basket. Also reported confiscated was a dealers choice game machine.

RATE CUT

Faced with the possible loss of the Ringling-Barnum Circus in November, the Metro Auditorium Commission, of Nashville, Tenn., has agreed to a price break on its rent to the circus. The new rate will be 10% of the gross revenues instead of the regular 12.5%. The reduction is expected to cost the building \$8000.

The price reduction was approved by a 4-1 vote by the Metro Auditorium Commission.

(Continued on Page 26)

AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS

Paul V. Kaye

HOLLYWOOD ELEPHANTS

Contact

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BENTLEY BROS.

BENTLEY BROS. FALL TOUR

by Billy Barton

Bentley Bros. Circus kicked off its fall season with a 3 day stand, Sept. 8-10, at Devon, Pa., for the F.O.P. where the show played to exceptional crowds at the Devon Horse Show Arena. Eight performances were given in the 3 days and the show has been signed for a 3 year pact with the F.O.P.

Circus spokesmen reveal the promotion was the best it has ever been, a story which was repeated in Dubuque, Iowa, played Sept. 23-24, for the Police Protective Ass'n, and again in Johnstown, Pa., Sept. 30-Oct. 1, played for the Firemen, where Bentley Bros. Circus originated in 1977.

At Dubuque, the show played a ball park in cool weather, drew in excess of 25,000 patrons in the 5 shows in two days. Attendance at Johnstown was on a par with the previous year, but the promotion was stronger. The Dubuque and Johnstown dates have also been signed back on long-term deals.

These dates will be combined in a route with at least four more spots in 1979, starting in late July or August. Tommy Bentley remarked: "I could have a route of 25 weeks with no problem whatsoever if I had the promoters to work them. Chuck and I have to work

NEED ACTS

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Closing: Nov. 26, 1978

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PEOPLE

FRED and HEIDI WENDANY report they had a real ball visiting friends in Sarasota, Fla. Fred was able to renew friendships with folks with whom he worked on the Ringling-Barnum Show.

the dates and then produce the show so our route is limited for that reason and that reason only."

The California tour, which starts the season each year will run three and a half weeks in 1979 instead of the two played this year. "We will probably run in June," Tommy and Chuck told CR, "but we will be able to give you the exact dates in November."

The programs in each spot were very strong. The show caught at Johnstown looked bright and clean and moved quickly with no lulls or dead spots and contained a number of first-rate 3 ring displays. Acts used on the dates included: Jorge Barreda's lions; the Vidbel's elephants; the Paul Kaye elephants; the Smahas, horses; Kim Kristensen, horse; The Zerbis, the Moore's Dogs; My-Imbas' Baboons; Arias Bears; the Wainwrights; Joselito, high wire; the Columbians, high wire; and flying acts; The Burketts; The Navarros, sword balance; the Widgets, trapeze display with Miss Carol, Miss Lydia, Miss Olga; the Oscar Marcas Family; a Mother Goose spec by Circus Creations which also furnished backdrop, lights and ring curbs; a clown alley produced by Jimmy Douglass who was also the performance director and ringmaster. The Alley included Vern Woerner, Don and Fran Bridwell and other clowns who alternated spots such as David Chabira.

Bentley Bros. is produced by Tommy Bentley and Charles Clancy. Harriett Wagner and James MacGregor handled the concessions. In Devon and Johnstown, Bobby Davis was prop boss. Wayne Liikala took over the position at Dubuque when Davis had another commitment. Music was provided by Virginia Lee Fenton, organist and drummer Chuck Gomes.



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SPECIAL

by Clayton Wood

Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc., have signed a ten year contract with a yet to be built stadium on the outskirts of Chicago.

While the mayor and city fathers of Chicago argued and discussed the possibility of a new stadium, the village of Rosemont (population 4700) quietly organized plans and money for a 20,000 seat indoor stadium, the first to be built in the Chicago area in almost half a century.

Following the contract signing, the Felds appeared on several TV programs to discuss the project. They were very enthusiastic about the new building which will seat more than twice the number of the old south side building. Rosemont is on the northwest corner of Chicago, in walking distance from O'Hare International Airport.

The building, which will be known as Rosemont Horizon will cost \$19 million and will be financed through the sale of revenue bonds, according to village president D. E. Stephens.

The Ringling contract calls for a minimum of 49 shows a year.

M.F.G. International has also agreed to a 10 year →

NEED Circus Acts

OF ALL KINDS

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Miscellaneous

The Funs-A-Poppin Show has been signed to appear at the Indio (Calif.) Date Festival in February.

The Hanneford Aerial Thrill Circus will be featured on a 90 minute TV special "Home Box Office" show in November. The booking was handled by Philip Morris.

The Pickle Family Circus played a Sept. 23-24 engagement at Jack London's Square in Oakland, Cal. presenting two shows each day to good crowds. It was a benefit event with prices set at \$1.50 and \$3.00 each.



series of concerts. These two contracts were a big factor in the decision to proceed with the project.

Ringling has played the International Amphitheatre on the south side of Chicago many years. They used to play under canvas just a few blocks from the old Amphitheatre.

If completion plans are met next year (1979) will be the last for the old building. Ground has already been broken for the new building.

Stephens said it will have an arched roof (wood) which will permit an unobstructed view of the floor from all seats. The new stadium is scheduled to open in 1980.

THANK YOU

Fred "Papa" Wendany and Heidi Wendany wish to thank all their friends in Sarasota, Florida, for making their recent visit a wonderful one.

A special thanks to Walter and Ingrid Houck, "The Houcks" for their delightful hospitality.

P. S. Betty thanks you all too.



EARLIER IN the season I chronicled the madcap escapades of Fabulous BARBARA WOODCOCK, the undisputed Queen of Ringling Blue, as she proceeded to tear up base old New York City, becoming, as a result, as big a celebrity on the Main Stem as any Broadway headliner. Recently, our Barbie-Doll invaded, AND conquered the West Coast adding hundreds of new fans who bought out whole sections of seats, whistled, cheered, and stomped at every appearance of their favorite glamor-gal. La Barbara, in one fell swoop, "took L.A., Anaheim, Long Beach, and then went on to capture San Francisco, which, combined with the taking of New York City, gives her my nomination as Circus Star of the Year.

Mondays off during the Los Angeles area engagement found Barbara and her coterie of fans and friends, including L.A.'s "hostess with the mostess" BETTY ESCALANTE, poolside at EARTHA KITT's Western Retreat (Miss Kitt is in New York starring in Timbuctul), at gala disco-parties at night where La Barbara arrived surrounded by handsome male escorts, at a party hosted by PARLEY and ERNESTINE BAER and, in Anaheim, on two occasions, Barbara's newly won fans arrived after the evening shows with buckets of iced champagne.

BETTY ESCALANTE, who became attached to the Woodcock retinue through her association with good friend BOBBY JOHNSON who is a close friend of the Woodcocks, filed this delicious report: "Let me tell you I have NEVER seen ANYONE as popular as that girl, not since JEAN ALLEN!" She is like some grand movie queen. There she was . . . with a personal hair stylist, dresser and make-up man! The dinner parties, the cocktail parties, the excitement . . . were endless! I rode the train from Long Beach to 'Frisco', with Bobby, Barbara and Buckles, and their travelling guests. God! I remember when one only had a berth and here we were in a car where we could cook, watch TV, sit with a crowd and comfortably yak and party all night! We arrived in Daly City and there was SID KELLNER with cars ready to take everyone to his house for another big Do. The scene at the Cow Palace was the same as in L.A. . . whole sections of Fans gave Barbara standing

ovations. If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes I would never have believed it!"

Give 'em hell, Barbara! It's about time SOMEBODY showed the world that we have glamorous, electrifying personalities in our profession and that the world of the circus can be just as exciting, as adventurous, and as galvanizing as the world of the movies, the theatre, or television!

MORE GLAMOR! Those scintillating Adagio-illusionists RON and JOY HOLIDAY, who also appear in circuses from time to time, received loads of press attention during their successful run at the Plantation Dinner Theatre in St. Louis where they shared star-honors with the LOS ARGENTINE GAUCHOS in JACK MANSELL's "1002 Nights" (A Las Vegas Revue). The dazzling Duo are now at home in Florida resting before a strenuous two months run at the Resort International Hotel in Atlantic City where they open Nov. 6th. Following their AC stint the team plays a series of sport shows for GUNNAR AMANDIS.

HENRY B. VALLEAU, of Boise, Idaho, is preparing a book on Circus Magicians and is seeking info about those magicians who have appeared in circuses throughout the world. If any of my readers can assist Mr. Valleau kindly contact him at: 1600 No. 8th St., Boise, Idaho 83702.

Screen great MARY ASTOR, victim of a stroke and heart problems, is currently residing at the Motion Picture Home in Calif., pretty much a recluse who prefers to be remembered for the books she has written and not for her man distinctive screen roles which include the classic Maltese Falcon. . . KEITH MOON, rock artist, who appeared in the Mae West movie SEXTETTE is dead. He died of an overdose in London a month ago.

CLOSE-UPS: AL DAWLEY is up for a part in a non-circus TV Movie of the Week. I hope he gets it. Al will be on all of the SAM T. POLACK dates next season. . . GEORGI and JOE SMILEY have a new St. Bernard dog for their illusion act, Chumbley the second, replacing the Chumbley that died. . . The JACK KOCHMAN Thrill Drivers, managed by BOB CONTO closed their season with the Raleigh (NC) Fair. . . Clown DENNIS STEVENS, off the road this year, reports he spent the hottest summer of his life in Florida. . . Drummer PHIL OLER, visited his folks who were producing the Grandstand show at the Goldsboro (NC) Fair on a day off from BILL GARDEN's Showtime Follies and took a busman's holiday playing the show. Also on tap were SHARON VIDBEL and husband JACK. . . PHIL ESCALANTE

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PEOPLE

GARY HENRY was scheduled to join the Jimmy Hetzer show after the Circus Gatini season was over.

BOB EMERICO, clown and magician, recently closed with the Jungle Wonders Circus to book dates in the Pacific Northwest for his magic show.

PHILIP MORRIS, ringmaster, and the Hanneford Circus were featured in the St. Paul, Minn., Dispatch of Aug. 31st.

LEE GRABEL, magician, played an evening engagement at Chabot College in Hayward, Calif. on Oct. 14th.

THE URIAS TROUPE (Douglas McValley and Victor Urias) have signed to tour with the Ringling Red Unit in 1979. They'll be featured as the closing act of the show.

NELLIE HANNEFORD has been booked to appear on an upcoming Saturday morning NBC-TV "It's A Kid's Life" show.

WILL AHREN, former trick roper who toured in Vaudeville now operates a drama/dance school in Los Angeles, Calif.

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Starting in March 1979

Closing in Early April

NEW YORK, VERMONT, NEW HAMP-
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Send photos if I don't know you, or if you have a new act.

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FRANZEN BROS. CIRCUS

by Kaye Scheiman

The Franzen Bros. Circus played Etna Green, Ind., on Sept. 26th, offering two performances, at 6 and 8 p.m. The show is produced by Wayne and Kathy Franzen.

This very enterprising circus is presented by only six people, and has many good animal acts trained and presented by Wayne Franzen. Exceptional is his new appaloosa pony liberty act. Dennis Michael works as "Freddy the clown", while Lynn Michael is the show organist and announcer. The drummer is Charles Jackson.

The program featured: Freddy doing come-in; Color Book Pitch; Wayne Franzen, wild animals (3 lions and 2 tigers); Lady Amanda Kathleen, trapeze; Senzany Comedy with Whips by Dennis and Lynn Michael; Wayne Franzen with the liberty horse "Tonto"; Curtis Kid Cainan, unicycle and juggling; Beau-nita, Spanish web; Wayne with 9 trained goats; Intermission with balloons.

The second half features: Curtis Kid Cainan, wire; Prizes for coloring contest contestants; "Tonto" the pick-out horse; the Barker Family of Dogs presented by Amanda Michael; Wayne and his liberty act; Freddy and Beau, plate spinning comedy, followed by Wayne Franzen and "Oka" the elephant.

Program

The program presented by Circus Gatini's Maritime Unit No. 1 this past season featured:

Gilda's uncaged leopards; Wini McKay, trapeze; Killer Willard, the boxing kangaroo; Gary Henry's funny car; Gee Gee's liberty ponies; Glen Henry's dogs; Don Giovanni, balancing atop a lamp pole; Gary Henry, balancing eggs; The Cristiani's, trampoline; The Fawcett's chimps (4); Zoe-Anna, dressage; Armando, juggling; The Grimaldis, comedy musical act with poodles; Christine, web; Welde's Bears; Tino Zoppe, high wire; Gary and his comedy pony; Gee Gee Engesser and her elephants.

IN MEMORIAM

GERRY GERALDO, popular circus clown and performer who had retired from show business and was raising horses in Nevada, died in an auto accident early this year. There are no known survivors.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**DIME
WILSON**

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FROM ALL YOUR KIDS

PENNY
MICKEY
MICHELLE
MONIQUE
ANNETTE

TRUDY
BILL
DAVID
STEVEN

JO ANNE
DENNIE
DENNIE, Jr.
KIM

LINDA
HARRY
SABRINA
LISA
TANYA

DONNA
BILL
TRACY

DIME, Jr.
HELEN
ANGELA
GREGORY

Circus

(The following poem was written by students of a Nelson, B.C., school and published in their local newspaper earlier this year).

THE PARADE'S DISGRACE

Waiting waiting for Circus Power
We waited almost half an hour,
Kids were looking down the street,
Expectation growing in the heat.
Flashing lights and big delights,
To see parading circus sights,
Smiles were spreading everywhere,
While songs and laughter filled the air.

As the city police came near,
We could see an elephant ear,
Then one straight line and four wee beasts,
Walking down our city streets.

Astonishment growing on every face,
When we saw "The Big Disgrace."

Dear editor, publish this big charade,
Four wee elephants make a parade!

Grade 7
St. Joseph School
Nelson, B. C.



The following information has been extracted from Mattel's report to its stock holders for the six month period ending Aug. 5, 1978.

For complete details and information regarding the Mattel operation readers are recommended to check the company's financial reports and statements.

"... Especially strong performances were registered by the electronic games segment of our Toy Products group and by Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. of our entertainment group."

"... On May 31, 1978, Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus World, Inc. ("Circus Theme Park") executed a \$20,000,000 five year 9% note secured by the capital stock and certain personal property of the Circus Theme Park. The note is guaranteed by Mattel, Inc. The proceeds, together with other general funds, were used to retire then existing term loans and mortgages of approximately \$32,800,000."

"... Entertainment group attendance and revenue increases at the Circus Theme Park resulting from the park expansion program completed in June and continued record attendance levels at the Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus contributed approximately 15%."

"... Each of the Company's three industry segments Toy Products, Hobby Products and Entertainment, achieved higher group sales and improved operating performance levels during the first six months of fiscal 1979 as compared to the first six months of fiscal 1978."

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They Meet

(Reprinted from the Chicago Sun-Times, Sept. 27)

For six decades, Ray Cosmo made millions laugh as Bozo the Clown, but for 52 of those years, he longed to appear before one person — the son he had never met.

Ten days ago, the 78 year old performer — the original Bozo the clown — finally embraced his son, Robert DeCosmo, at the father's mobile home in the circus community of Sarasota.

"He got big," Cosmo beamed.

Cosmo went home to his New York apartment one day in 1926 and discovered that his pregnant wife had left him, apparently disillusioned by circus life.

The son was raised as Robert DeCosmo by an aunt and uncle in Brooklyn. He thought they were his parents until he was 13. Then the boy's real mother died and his family told him about her.

But it was not until three years ago that DeCosmo, now 52, learned from his aunt, that his father was a worldwide and famous entertainer who had toured for 60 years with circuses in the United States, Europe and Canada.

The son, living in Fort Myers Beach, was only 65 miles from his father's home, but he stayed away

for three years. DeCosmo's shyness kept him away, his wife said — that and a reluctance to defy the family that had disapproved of his show business father.

Family members say Cosmo had kept track of his son over the years but never tried to meet him because of the family's distaste for circus performers.

But DeCosmo finally telephoned his father, on Sept. 16th. They were united the same day.

"I choked up," said Cosmo. "Everything was right there — it was the way I thought it'd be all these years."

Ray Bozo Cosmo, who changed his name from Ray DeCosmo, has been in show business since he was 12 and hustled songsheets in New York City. By 16 he was acting in vaudeville and burlesque, doing a pantomime act. "Bozo" was the burlesque slang for pantomime performers, and the name stuck when Cosmo joined the circus.

Countless clowns since have called themselves Bozo, including the television Bozo of the 1950's and 1960's, but Cosmo was the first. At the height of his career Cosmo danced on five foot stilts during a 19 month Las Vegas engagement and appeared on Ed Sullivan's television program.

Cosmo and his present wife, Elsbeth, a former aerialist, whom he married 30 years ago, still perform several months each year.

"I make people laugh all over the world . . . but this is something else," Cosmo told the Fort Myers News-Press in an interview about the meeting with his son. "No one can explain it."

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Box at Tom Hill's, 730 Market Street.

The above advertisement for the A I G. Barnes
Circus appeared in San Francisco, Calif., news-
papers on March 12, 1911.

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YEARS AGO

AL G. BARNES CIRCUS

Oakland, Calif. - May 10-12, 1935

The Al G. Barnes Circus arrived here about 7 a.m. this morning, coming in from Sacramento, and set up at the lot in Emeryville.

The circus is on 29 cars - 14 flat cars, 7 stock cars, 8 sleepers and is using 54 wagons. Their colors are: flats and stocks orange, sleepers dark green, wagons red, with cages various colors.

The tents include: Big top with 4 center poles, 16 long quarter poles, 24 short quarter poles and 66 side poles. Each straight section of canvas has 2 of each quarter pole and 5 end poles, the end sections have one long quarter pole, three short quarter poles and 8 end poles.

The Menagerie: 5 center poles, 20 quarter poles and 72 end poles. Also has: 20 elephants, 8 camels, 15 zebras, 2 llamas, water buffalo, 2 ostriches, monkey, ape, 12 ponies, one jackass, 15 cages.

Side Show: 3 center poles, 14 quarter poles, 42 end poles, 12 banners, center bally stand, 3 ticket boxes.

Dressing and Ring Stock Tent: 4 center poles, 16

quarter poles, 42 end poles. Two cross sections of canvas divide the tent.

Two Baggage Horse Tents: Each has 7 center poles, 28 end poles, 6 sets of horse troughs.

Cookhouse: 7 center poles, 28 side poles.

Kitchen: 2 center poles, 6 side poles

Blacksmith Shop: 2 center poles, 6 side poles

Other tents: 3 candy stands, 2 umbrella tops, one candy floss, 4 small tents.

Wagons: 2 ticket wagons, 2 tractors, 2 canvas wagons with hoists, 3 cookhouse wagons, tank wagon, 4 light wagons, horse top wagon, blacksmith wagon, 15 cages, 2 ring prop wagons, big poles and stringer, stringer wagon, 2 jack wagons, 4 seat plank wagons, 1 trap wagon, dressing room, prop wagon, trunk wagon, privileges, inside lights, stake driver, water tank, props, dog wagon.

Cages are: 4 cages lions, 4 cages tigers, hyena; young tigers, seals, monkeys, hippo, deer, bear, tapir.

In front of the seats are chains with a canvas cover. The band stand is on the short side and there are two back entrances.

Blue seats on the ends. 60 stringers with jacks, five to a set, 420 planks. Starbacks on short side, 28 stringers, 126 planks with 1,568 starback seats. The Grandstand is on the long side, has 34 stringers, with 8 sections "A to H", 238 planks, 1,792 chairs.

The Side Show features: Fay, the Man of Mystery, Virginia Butterfield, mentalist, Art Hubell, human bellows, Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Winters, midgets, five Hawaiians, Monyra Pedro, snakes, Edith Hubell, sword box, Betty Broadbent, tattooed girl, Jenkins Schroder, wildman, Mike Butch, Popeye, C. E. Rice, human heart, Capt. La Barda, sword swallower, Jack Ernest, piano accordion, Eteye and Miguel, Aztec midgets.

FLASH

Residents of San Antonio, Texas, will find plenty of entertainment in their city this week as two shows are playing in town at the same time. They are:

Shrine Circus - Oct. 17 to 22

Ice Capades - Oct. 17 to 22



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To operate new show. Must be able to
drive 21 ft. truck, pulling 28 ft. trailer.

All equipment brand new including 20
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**COME SEE — MAKE OFFER — BRING CASH
TAKE WITH YOU**

NO PHONE CALLS ON THIS

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SHOW DATES**Circus Vargas**

Oct. 17-19 Lawton, Okla.
20-23 Wichita Falls, Tx.

Dr. Pepper Circus

to Oct. 22 Dallas, Texas

Great American Circus

Oct. 16 Houston, Miss.
17 Columbus
18 Fayette, Ala.
19 Jasper
20 Tuscaloosa

Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus

Oct. 19 Baton Rouge, La.

Sam T. Polack Circus

Oct. 20-22 Charleston, W. Va.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

Oct 18-Nov 19 Chicago, Ill.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

Oct 18-20 Boston, Mass.

Royal Hanneford Circus

Oct. 16 Gulfport, Miss.
18 McComb

Royal Lichtenstein Circus

Oct 16 St. Louis, Mo.
18 Carbondale, Ill.
19 Fayetteville, Ark.
20 Russellville

Shrine Circus

Oct 17-22 San Antonio, Tx.

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

Oct 18-22 Green Bay, Wisc.

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Oct. 17 Columbia, Miss.
18 Hattiesburg
19 Atmore, Ala.
20 Jay, Fla.
21 Elgin AFB

--- OTHER DATES ---

Al's Lemon-zeen Comedy Car
to Oct 21 Columbia, S.C.

Blackstone, Jr. - Magic Show
Oct 20-21 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Vince Carmen - Magician
Oct. 16 Gulfport, Miss.
18 McComb

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
Oct 20-28 Mobile, Ala.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit
Oct 20-28 Mobile, Ala.

James H. Drew Expo Shows
Oct 16-21 Cordele, Ga.

Fred, the Cockatoo
Oct 17-21 Concord, N.C.

Gutis' Jungle Parody
to Oct. 22 Dallas, Texas

Holiday On Ice
Oct 17-22 Birmingham, Ala

Ice Capades - Eastern Unit
Oct 17-22 Providence, R.I.

Ice Capades - Western Unit
Oct 17-22 San Antonio, Tx.

Kaye's Hollywood Elephants
Oct 16-21 Montgomery, Ala.

Walt King's Elephants
Oct 16-21 Macon, Ga.

Los Latinos - wire act
Oct 17-22 San Antonio, Tx.

Magic Time USA - Pf. Miller
Oct. 16 Lajunta, Colo.
18 Longmont

Royal American Show
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STEBBING ROYAL EUROPEAN CIRCUS

by Philip Morris


It's billed as the Royal Stebbing European Circus, and that's exactly what this little gem is, a Royal Circus. The show played the Cleveland County Fair at Shelby, N.C., Oct. 3-7th. This was the fourth consecutive year at this engagement.

We caught the show on opening night, and even though they had just made a 400 mile over night jump and none of the personnel had any sleep the show still sparkled. Clean as a whistle, even the ticket takers were dressed in formal wear.

The one ring and Bill Stebbing's down to earth personality as Ringmaster, gives the show a real warmth not found in larger productions.

Music was furnished by the Costillo Band. The elephant Baby Lou opened the show, presented by little Miss Holly, Bill Stebbing's five year old grand daughter. Dynise Pittenger worked a single trap, and here is a girl to keep your eye on, she is going places.

The clown department is headed by Duane Pittenger. John and Vickie Stebbing's chimps, one of the funniest acts in the business. The Verdu's, very attractive girls on rolling globes, an excellent web number



Jack Thurm, of Chicago, who clowns for shopping centers, business firms, birthday parties and the like, recently was given some heart-breaking news.

"Six weeks ago I was having trouble breathing and went to a hospital," says Thurm. "The doctors said I had lung cancer and it's spread all through my chest. They put it on the line - I have a year or less to live.

"I don't want to go. I get too much happiness being a clown and making people laugh. I've visited 1,900 hospitals throughout the midwest in my time. I still go to hospitals twice a week to try to bring smiles to sick kids. Now I have to go more often, for chemotherapy treatments," Thurm says.

Thurm and his wife, Shirley, love kids, so much so that they have 11 at home. Nine of them are teenagers from broken homes, two others are grandchildren. Their mother travels a lot on her job.

and the show closed with Robert Stebbing and the large (three of them) elephants.

The show had one more stop in Stuart, Va., then it goes home to the barn for the winter.

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MAGIC

by Prof. Stu Miller

Well known magician Ron Urban is now producing ice shows. His "Stars On Ice" unit has been in Gaslight Village at Lake George, NY, all summer and his "C'est Magnifique" unit at Glen Park in Scranton (Pa). He reportedly will tour 5 units next year.

News from NYC: Irv Tannen, reportedly out of Tannen Magic Co., so the big magic company is now non-Tannen operated — The Richiardi show still running at the Village Gate — Larry Weeks has taken his Big Apple one day magic convention back to the Diplomat Hotel — This year's IBM Ring 26th annual public show to be held at Hunter College Auditorium in Manhattan on Oct. 31st. Should be one of the finest offerings to date. Producer Al Delage has come up with the following program: MC, Howard Brummenn; John Bundy with Black Art; Don Hanko with new illusions; closing 1st act with Al and Margaret Delage, who need no introduction. In the second half will be: Andre Kole with his world of illusion. This years outstanding achievement award will go to well known TV personality Dick Cabot who will be on hand at the show to collect his honor.

Ray Winder's "Atlantic Southern Show Production" tour in Texas is sporting some well known showmen.

PEOPLE

TOM WILDS is playing the Central/Northern California area with his Petting Zoo, then jumps into Oregon for dates.

DANNY DANIELS, organist/comic juggler, just completed a very successful fair season, plus circus dates. He is now setting his Banquet and Christmas shows.

VINCE CARMEN, magician, played a special dressing room engagement for Rock Star Jackson Browne at Charlotte, NC, on Sept. 1st. It was a special after show, end of the tour "unusual entertainment" feature, with the booking handled by Phillip Morris.

Jack King and Mike Martin are working advance and Gary Holveck is doing magic in the show. Winder previously used Vince Carmen on these dates. For the Winder Christmas dates Mike Martin will headline and produce the show.

We spent a few days in Reno and found lots of magic there. The Amazing Elliot is in with the Helen Forrest show at the Silver Dollar Showroom. The Cabaret in Harrahs is advertising a magic musical to open soon, produced by agent Betty Kaye. The "Hello Hollywood Hello" show at MGM has got to be one of the biggest productions ever put on. Ageless magician Gali Gali (and his chicks) is one of the acts used while the stage is being reset. He comes out all alone after a scene with 150 or so dancers and has his work cut out for him, but he comes across very well indeed.

Magician Dick Berry, of Jackson, Miss., may turn his town into another "illusion building capitol" He has built some fine illusions for many well known illusionists this year and has many orders on hand. He built us an original sawing in two for this season and will be building us brand new features/illusions for next year.

In a season that has not been kind to many shows, Mearl and Audrey Johnson's North American Productions has presented our "Magic Time USA" with a very fine, long cross country tour. Our first venture into the Far West has been quite successful. Both Dennis Loomis and Stan Kramien are well known in this territory and tour it extensively. We have not been close enough at the right time to visit these shows yet, but hope to catch them one of these days. We did enjoy visiting with veteran magician Henry Valleau and newcomer Craig Araquistain in Boise, Idaho.

We are now in Colorado and will soon be in Kansas City and St. Louis. Watch for our route in CR and come and visit when you can.

Prof. Stu Miller, 1917 - 14th St., West, Bradenton, Fla. - 33506 - Phone: (814) 746-6577.

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MAILBAG

Regarding the mailbag article in the Aug. 28, 1978, issue of the Circus Report which was written by Rick Baughman, he specifically stated there is a list of lay-over stops for show people. It seems to me that the individuals who sent this news flash to your weekly publication failed to inform you that he had a petting zoo which he wished to turn loose in one of our buildings which would have been included in the \$14 per day price as well as rest room facilities, clean up after they left, use of electricity, and water for themselves and the animals and plenty of grass areas where his animals would be staked out, weather permitting. This person erroneously stated prices in your paper and conditions pertaining to this situation. If an \$8 charge was made it would be for two trailers.

If this article and the feelings created by this publication cannot be rectified by a forth coming article by Mr. Baughman then the fairgrounds will be closed to all show people on the road. This is unfortunate due to the stupidity of one person a lot of show people and animals will be forced to seek other places to stay.

I would also like to point out that at this same time the Kelly Bros. Circus and the Hanneford Family Circus were staying on the fairgrounds from June 27th until around July 18th when portions of the circus left to play other dates in the surrounding area, however some of the Kelly tent people stayed with their equipment until sometime in August, painting and repairing their equipment.

We had a cancellation for a grandstand performance during our fair so we paid the circus to perform during our fair with a one hour show and gave them permission to remain on the fairgrounds for over a month. When they left the grounds in the dark of night trash was left behind, an old pick up truck, lumber and manure was left for our crew to clean up. When the Hanneford Family Circus left they did clean up and left

no problems.

The individual that wrote the article to you should have considered what he would receive for \$14 per day which is not as much as they would have to pay for one nights lodging at a motel just to sleep!

You as professional people must realize that our costs and equipment maintenance as well as employee wages have tripled in the last couple of years which I am sure that you have incurred as well as everyone else. We have almost been forced to exclude camping of any kind, unless it has to do with grounds related events and everyone pays at least \$4 per night fee to help off set our costs. If there are less expensive places for the show people to go then please encourage them to do so, as this has been a professional courtesy extended to them. If we have engaged any of the acts that have stayed on our fairgrounds we have paid the regular fee required by them.

In the past thirty years on this fairgrounds I cannot remember a thank you from anyone with the exception of the entire Nocks family, or any kind of a letter thanking us for providing the grounds and facilities. We sincerely hope that you and your mail bag writer Rick Baughman will take steps to correct this matter immediately. Copies of this letter as well as your article will be sent to Amusement Business for publication in their circus information. We hope you will rectify this immediately.

Signed: Caroline Smith, Secretary-Manager, Clark County Fair, P. O. Box 836, Springfield, Ohio.

James M. Smith, Grounds Supervisor, Clark County Fair.

PEOPLE

MARK CHAPNICK's photos of the RBBB Circus were displayed in Boston (Mass) on Oct. 3rd, with clown PEGGY WILLIAMS making a special guest appearance.

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The Game

by B. Bartholomew

A circus on tour can't perform or practice all of the time. Some of the performers and personnel on Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey's Blue Unit like to play soccer in their time off. They have formed a team called the Ringling Tigers, with Tito Gaona as captain.

It is not always easy in moving from city to city to find other organized teams to compete against. Luckily, while in Seattle, Wash., the Ringling Tigers with the help of CFA members Betty Bartholomew and Gina Ushler, were able to challenge the crew of a nuclear submarine HMS Conqueror out of London.

It was a cold, drizzly day but it didn't dampen the spirits of either spectators or players as in a fast, fierce, but always friendly match, the Tigers claimed a 2 to 1 victory over the sub.

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by Hugo Marquardt

The annual Morocco Temple Shrine Circus, at Jacksonville, Fla., was held on Sept. 30-Oct. 1st, produced by Bill Kay, who also handled the announcing.

The program featured: Overture by Bill Pruyn and the circus band; Miss Carmen, tightwire; Trio Sonora aerial number; Capt. Edca Schmitt, Bengal tigers; the Torino Bros., juggling; The Morocco Clowns; Barbara and her mixed animal revue; Morocco Clowns; Miss Lisa, cloud swing; The Olmedas, horses; The Vasquez Flyers; Johnson's Bears; Morocco Clowns; the Olmeda Family, bicycle act; Morocco Clowns; Moore's Dogs; Morocco Clowns; Walt and Barbara King's elephants; and the Castro Bros. on the high wire.

The show's Executive staff included: William Kay, producer; Patricia Kay, treasurer/talent coordinator; Bill Pruyn, musical director; Shannon Raven, secretary; Bob Johnson, supt., and Bruce Free, wardrobe.

Mailroom

Mail for the following people was returned this past week because the Post Office says they are unable to deliver it.

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SHOW FOLKS

by Clayton Wood

Ada and Klaus Smieya and son, Brunin, have been visiting at Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisc. They also set practice sessions with their nine tigers and lions. The Smieya's went to Minneapolis for dates with Jose Cole in late September, where they were to have six school dates. Then they planned to drive to California for some dates and a little vacation, but they'll be heading back to Baraboo for the April opening of the Circus World Museum. Fans who met them there were delighted and look forward to visiting them during the coming summer season.

For the first time in many months there is an animal act at Old Chicago. Barbara Lee, wife of Bill Lee, who runs Sailor Circus in Florida, is presenting an act of nine dogs and a pony titled "B-Lees Canine Capers". The second act is "Los Dos Caballitos", a twin pony liberty act and was routined by the late Jack Joyce. Joyce helped get the act started.

They began working with the ponies the first of Sept. 1977 and Jack died the following month. Barbara said Jack thought the ponies had much promise, and spent all the time he was able to working with them. Barbara finished breaking the act after Jack's death, following suggestions he had given her. She

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recently began breaking a young llama to add to the routine. She acquired the young animal when it was two days old and bottle raised it. The youngster is now 12 weeks old. She feels it will be a large animal when matured as it's father weighed about 600 lbs. Bill has just about been commuting between Florida and Old Chicago on weekends. It's a lot of work for a woman alone to take care of animals and work two shows a day.

Following a summer spent in Joliet, Ill., Pablo Rodriguez and troupe pulled up stakes after Labor Day. Part of the group had played the summer at Old Chicago, while the remainder spot-dated with Fleckles and other shows. They will finish the season with Royal Hanneford and then go home to Florida for a rest and practice sessions. The entire troupe, along with Veno Venito, signed with Hubert Castle for the 1979 season.

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RATE CUT (Continued)

The decision was made after the commission was told that the circus was "not bluffing" when it threatened to cancel its five day engagement in November if the price break was not approved.

Last year the Auditorium made a profit of \$30,000 from the circus engagement. Auditorium manager Robert Highsmith said it was the best money-maker for 1977.

The building hopes to make up the 2.5% difference by charging the five day event for incidentals such as the use of spotlights.



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They also have three animal tents and in addition to our chimps they have: 40 horses, 10 elephants, 10 small monkeys, 9 tigers, 3 lions, 8 camels, 2 polar bears, yaks, goats and cows.

The animals all work and are also menagerie animals. The camels are allowed to roam freely among the people and are very good (no biting, etc).

The show program features: Frank Torrez, announcer; Wadislaw Gorobik, band leader (13 pieces); Werner Stiebiver, wild animals; Patrick Tissier, lions and tigers; Tito Reyes, foot juggling/head balancing; Sidi el Barani, camels/yaks/cows; Little Johnes, clown; Telusch and Simona, cup and saucer balance on a unicycle; Jungle Jamboree, Fawcett's Chimps; Gerard Edon, single trapeze; Romero, rola bola; Corty Althoff, horses; Intermission.

The Siberas, perch; Little Johanes, clown; Las Victoria, adagio; Bocky Randall & Co., musical clowns; Las Antares, revolving airplane and cradle; Corty Althoff, elephants; The Verjoagas, juggling/plate catching; Finale.



by Jack Hunter

Hoxie Bros. Circus, scheduled to play the Charleston Air Force Base on Sept. 24th, had to cancel out when they were unable to get the proper permits, which would allow them to bring exotic animals into the state.

The sponsors were heart-broken over the cancellation as they were looking forward to the show's arrival. The circus played here last year to full houses.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530 - Phone: (415) 525-3332.

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CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS

by Ron Sanford

by Ron Sanford

When the Carson & Barnes Circus No. 2 Unit played Denison, Iowa (Sept. 24) they were on a small lot and as a result the big top was not used, the show was sidewalled. However, the side show top was set up.

The performance was very strong, with excellent wardrobe and a circus band that was good, directed by Charles E. Stevenson. Bobby Gibbs and Ken Benson shared the announcing chores.

In addition to the side show Manuel King had his snake show on the midway. The show features a hippo and several penned animals.

The performance included: The Onofre Troupe, on trampoline; The Bautista Troupe, trampoline; Wayne Ragen, lions and tigers; Don Carlos, hand balancing; El Nino, hand balancing; Miss Veronica, Adela and Maria del Carman, contortion; Bobby Gibbs, liberty mules; Miss Rosalita, liberty ponies; The Nolberto Duo, high wire; Miss Magnolia, slack wire; Veronica, unicycles; The Rubens and The Racios, jugglers; Big Lydia, at the Restaurant; Bobby Gibbs, dogs; Sammy and Alberto, rola bola; Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Logan, elephants; the Flying Cabelleros, flying act.

Billy Barton (Continued)

has been laid up with a bad back. . . Musician ROY ROBINETTE is reported to be with a Ringling unit.

READER'S CIRCLE: THE MYSTERY OF AGATHA CHRISTIE, hardcover, Doubleday & Co., by Gwen Robyns. An excellent book on the late Duchess of Death, far more enlightening and informative than was Christie's autobio published in '77. The book details the Queen of Crime's incredible career, discusses her books and plays, and sheds new light on the famous and mysterious 10 day "disappearance" in the 1930's. **ALSO RECOMMENDED: THE CHANCELLOR MANUSCRIPTS** (paperback) by prolific writer Robert Ludlum, his best since the SCARLATI INHERITANCE (his first novel). **PASS BY: SCARLETT O'HARA's YOUNGER SISTER** (paperback) by supporting actress Evelyn Keyes. A REAL pot-boiler.

HERMAN and EDITH WALLENDIA must be feeling rather foolish over a "bomb scare" which forced evacuation of their home for nearly two hours when a neatly tied package, left on the doorstep and thought to be a bomb (which brought out police and the bomb squad) turned out to be only a package of Amphoria tobacco!

See you down the road, luvs.

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From the Desk of

DON MARCKS

The year 1978 will probably go down as one of the busiest of all times as far as circus activity is concerned for the San Francisco/Oakland (Calif.) area. There have been years when more shows played in the area, but the record comes because so many of the shows arrived in a short span of time.

During the first quarter of the year shows playing in the area were: TNT & Royal Olympic Circus, American Continental Circus, John Strong's Circus, California Circus, Circus Vargas, Pickle Family Circus, Bentley Bros. Circus, Circus Carol, Emmett Kelly, Jr., Happytime Circus, Europorama, and Lani's Mini-Circus.

Then there was a lull until Ringling Blue arrived to play both Oakland and San Francisco, and they were followed shortly afterwards by return visits by the American Continental Circus and John Strong's Circus. The only show still due in the area is the annual PAL Circus in San Francisco in December.

There is no question about it, the west coast and especially California, is a popular area for shows. In addition to the many circuses there are also several rodeos, variety shows and magic shows, all working successful advance promotion.

There have been times when promoters questioned the idea of working in California due to its laws and regulations, and one friend says if you do your homework ahead of time you won't have any problems. And for those who do it pays off.

Today's numerous shows are a far cry from just a few years ago when west coast residents were lucky if they saw two or three circuses a year. Whoever says the circus is dead hasn't been watching their growth, that is for sure.

Thanks and see you next week.



by Jack Hunter

The Exchange Club of Charleston (NC) has offered free land to the county for construction of a Coliseum on their new fairgrounds. The Coastal Carolina Fair is sponsored each year by the Exchange Club.

The fair will move to the new grounds for the 1979 fair date. In addition to the offer, goes more land for parking areas.

The offer is now in the hands of a study committee.

PEOPLE

CURTIS GRIMES has replaced JOHN MEYERS with the BILL BRICKLE Poodle Fantasy act.

WALTER LOGAN has left the Beatty-Cole Circus and is now working on the Carson & Barnes Circus No. 2 Unit. FRED LOGAN's daughter, EILEEN, is working elephants in Ring 1, formerly worked by her brother.

ANGELA WILNOW and her Collies will be on the Bozo TV Show in Chicago on Oct. 20th, after which she joins the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus for several dates. Her Chicago dates for the Christmas season have also been booked by the Howard Schultz Agency.

IN MEMORIAM

EDGAR BERGEN (75) died in his sleep on Sept. 30 at a Las Vegas hotel, of an apparent heart attack. He was probably the nation's best known ventriloquist, working with his puppet "Charlie McCarthy". He had just recently announced his retirement plans and was in Las Vegas for his last professional engagement. Survivors include his wife, Frances, a son and a daughter.

LOLA, bearded lady with the Caravan of Human Oddities, died at the fair in Shelby, N.C., on Sept. 29th. The coroner reported that Lola was actually a man, and the death certificate listed the name as - Leiy Laverne Conklin - age 70 to 75. Lola had a 12 inch beard and was a name side show attraction.



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SPECIAL

by Billy Barton

The TV series "Circus!" produced in Canada is off and running with a re-showing of the original pilot on Sept. 15th, followed by the first show of the regular series Sept. 22nd. That show featured the Riding Zerbinis, the Juggling Jewels, Moore's Dogs and the Flying Lar-Rays.

The Sept. 28th show featured: Mario's Mad Hatters, The Diones, perch; the Reynosa Duo, Pirates of the Sky; and My-Immba's Baboons.

The Oct. 6th show spotlighted: Wade Burck with the Cuneo white tigers; the Verdu Troupe, rolling globes; the Hawthorn-Melody Baby Elephants and aerialist Prince Najvez.

Viacom, who picked up the International rights to the series upon seeing the pilot, aired early in January so impressed with the new circus program that the company put up a half million dollars in front money. Viacom has since signed to distribute the program in the United States and Europe.

The final taping for the 1978-79 series was from Oct. 3rd thru Oct. 6th. Among the acts taped were: Don Giovanni, Cristiani's trampoline, Gilda's leopards, the Los Argentine Gauchos, Aria's Bears, Karen Nyce, one finger stand, DeMille, tight wire, The Grimaldis,

PEOPLE

TOM ROBIN EDELSTON who successfully accomplished the 3½ somersault to his catcher WARREN HAMILTON, on Aug. 25th at Marriott's Great America Park, is now completing the trick at each performance.

GLENN DANDOY, former concession manager on the Martin & Downs Circus, spent four days visiting the main unit of Carson & Barnes Circus at Fairview and Maple Heights, Ohio. Others visiting the show were: CARL and MICHELLE CONLEY, HARRY MILLS and AL STENCELL.

FAY SNDER's Animals worked in three motion pictures recently, as well as in a commercial for the Washington State Fair (watch for photos in the Enquirer paper). Fay has also worked dates for BOB YERKES, PAUL V. KAYE and BETTY WENDANY.

musical comedy, Paulette Braun, Geronimo, sponge dive, the Vasquez Trio, head balance trapeze, Ming Wong, hair suspension, John Stevens, fire/swords, and Anne Clark, archery.

Several other acts were being negotiated for, Baby Dondi, among them, but confirmation on these bookings was not immediately available.

For Sale

2 Female Asian Elephants — 13 and 16 years — Both rideable — One performing.

\$14,000 each

2 Female Black Jaguars — Yearlings — Tame.

\$4,900 each

6 Female African Elephants — 8 yrs. Approximately 7 ft. high — Green Broke.

\$36,000 for the group
or \$7000 each

Giant Land Tortoise — 54 inches over shell

\$4,900 each

— AND MANY MORE —

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Music

The following musical program was used on the Carson & Barnes No. 2 Unit early this year in Canada.

Pre-show Concert — Iowa Centennial, Monte Carlo, Darktown Strutters Ball, Trombonium, Walking Frog, Toot Toot Tootsie, The Stripper.

Overture — Woody Van's

Spec — Vanguard of Democracy

Web and Ladder — Hello Dolly, Pretty Girl

Cats — Bravura, Jungle Queen

Canine Revue — Happy Days Are Here Again, Are

You From Dixie, Alabama Jubilee

Casting — March of Spanish Soldiery

High Wire — Rough Riders, Tequila, Amapola

Contortion — Shadow of Your Smile, San Francisco

Cloud Swing — Waves of the Danube

Single Elephant — Pan American, Algeria

Pony Drill — Hippodrome, General Funston

Rola Bola — Broadway One Stop

Unicycles - Stop It

Big Lydia — Whispering, How Dry I Am, Show Me the Way to Go Home

Juggling — Cocacabana

Aerial Cradle — Enchanted Nights, Monte Carlo

Hand Balancing — Temptation, Breeze and I

New Home

A circus horse suffering from heaves, which is similar to emphysema, now has a new home thanks to the combined efforts of the Ringling-Barnum vet, Dr. J. Y. Henderson and Humane Society officials in Missouri.

Dr. Henderson reported the horse's condition was aggravated by the circus sawdust and ordered the horse out of the ring. The animal — Ollie — performed in a liberty group presented by Diane Stevenson.

At St. Louis the Humane Society put the circus in touch with Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, who live on a 1 1/2 acre farm. Their two horses died last year leaving their barn empty for the first time in 27 years.

The Thompsons were reportedly thrilled to be able to take the animal to their farm and its green pastures.

Big Elephants — Hosts of Freedom, The Huntress, Grand March from Aida

Flying Act — Zacatecas, Sunnyland Waltzes, and Go Galop

The circus band included: Charles E. Stevenson, director, Vince Sigfried, trumpet, Roy Robinette, trumpet, Keith Cooper, trombone and Randy Fulton, drums.

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