



5th Year

May 17, 1976

Number 20

## **N.O. Shrine Date Set**

Contracts were signed last week by Glenn Parkins, of the Royal Hanneford Circus, calling for that show to produce the Jerusalem Temple's annual Shrine Circus in New Orleans. The circus will appear in the Louisiana city for six days (Nov. 22-27) and will be

### **Ideas Sought**

Circus Fans, Historians and Model Builders are being asked for suggestions in the development of story ideas for Ringling-Barnum's 1977 circus press kit and program book.

All contributions will be  
(Continued on Page 21)

presenting virtually the same big program that was produced by Tommy Hanneford for several major Shrine clubs early this year.

At the same time it was announced that the show's Florida offices have been expanded to a suite of three offices. This will provide facilities for Glenn Par-

(Continued on Page 20)

AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS

# **JACOBS HOLLYWOOD ELEPHANTS**

Contact

JUDY JACOBS KAYE

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## Truck Burns

A loss of key equipment was suffered by Lewis Bros. Circus, when the light plant, containing two generators and a large amount of electrical material burned to the ground at Villa Rica (Ga) on April 30th.

The incident occurred while the show truck was enroute from Cedar Bluff (Ala) to Villa Rica. Cause of the blaze was blamed on sparks from the truck's muffler igniting at the fuel tank.

..... Hal Haviland

## Pot-Pourri

CFA Pat Bissonette served as a chauffer to get Royal Hanneford Circus coveralls to the laundromat. That's show biz!

The Baroness Von Frost's Mystical World of Magic, with Mike Naughton, Dorian and Janice Blake did two shows on May 1st at the Municipal Auditorium at Charleston, S. C.

Early reports on Circus Galaxy are very impressive.

When Clyde Bros. Circus plays South Bend (Ind) they'll be in an old downtown vaude house. The dates are: June 12-13.

..... Mike Naughton

**WANTED:** Small ponies for a mini-Liberty Act. PRICE MUST BE RIGHT Write: Hal Haviland, P. O. Box 1222; Landover, Md. 20785

## Sam Polack SHOW

Rain washed out the first day of Sam Polack's three day engagement at Columbia (SC) April 30-May 2. Show was set up in an open arena with an uncovered grandstand. High winds, sprinkles and threatening skies greeted the three shows Saturday, with two matinees on Sunday.

Appearing in Columbia were: Feller Boys and Do Do; Pam Rossaires, dogs and chimps; The Villams, juggling; DeMille, wire; Prince Najvez, aerial; Gossing's tigers; Jordanas, upside-down unicycle; Anderson's White Horse Troupe; Geronimo, sponge dive; Diano's elephants; Jericho's leap act and clowns Benaka, Chabira and Mike Markling. John Asbury handled music and Isabel Luvacs was the announcer.

## Celeb Nite

A champagne party topped off a star studded Burbank (Cal) opening for Circus Vargas on Apr. 23rd. Among those appearing in the program and as honored guests were: Edie Adams, Parley Baer, Dyann Cannon, Phil Chamberlain, Charo, Dick Clark, Gary Collins, Brandon Cruz, James Franciscus, Walt Freitas, Henry Gibson, Shirley Jones, Claudia Lamb, George Maharis, Dick McGinnes, Emil McLaughlin, Rick Nelson, Helen Reddy, Sally Struthers, Gordon Wiles Flip Wilson, Betty White and Alan Ludden.

# Acts Walk Off

SPECIAL TO CIRCUS KEEPER - Rosenberg, (Texas) April 27 - An air of mystery pervades the Showtime U.S.A. debacle when performers "walked" on the 9th day. In an interview with performer Peter Luvax the following story has been pieced together.

"Towards the end of the first week we were told payday would be on a Monday, the 8th day in Conroe, Texas. The money, we were informed, went first to Dayton and then back to the show. This made us skeptical, plus the fact that two acts on the show, for a couple of days, who had to leave (Jimmy Douglass and Baron Von Uhl) were paid in dollar bills and quarters. We went along with the deal anyway, but in Conroe, on Monday, the producer never showed. On top of that we heard the backer had pulled out.

"The show was already up, tickets were being sold right and left. It was our best day. We put on the matinee, but made sure one of our people was in the box office controlling the money. We had a meeting after the show. It was decided that all people holding gas bills would get their gas money. At the end of the night what was left was cut up. Each act, no matter how many people were in it, got \$150.00, including movie star John Bromfield. It was then agreed we would do the same thing the next day in Rosenberg. Upon arrival we found out through the sponsors there was only \$32.00 in the bank. There was no sense in even putting up the show.

"The producer phoned, wanted Tom Pettus and me to move the show to the next spot. With only \$32.00 in the bank, and all that equipment sitting there, how could we do that?"

"It was there that we left. Everybody disbanded. We had to help some of the people get out of town. We had overlooked the band, so everybody kicked in money to get the band out of town."

Other complications apparently contributed to the show's Texas upset, chief among them being a nut far beyond the grossing capacity of the small towns being promoted. The nut was estimated at \$35,000 for performance and \$6,000 for staff, plus operating expenses.

In the wake of this mass exodus by performers came the inevitable rumors - one being that phone promotions continue for the show in the Chicago area; another that the producer is trying to fill some heavily promoted spots in Texas. All this, however, is pure rumor and speculation.

Several European importations were brought over especially for Showtime U.S.A. They, like their American counterparts are, for the moment, without contracts.

# ROUTES

Beatty-Cole Circus  
May 17 Carlisle, Pa.  
18 Lancaster  
19 West Chester  
20-31 Philadelphia

Berosini 3-Ring Circus  
May 19-20 Anniston, Ala.  
21-23 Rome, Ga.

Hubert Castle Circus  
May 17 Moose Jaw, Can.  
18-19 Swift Current  
20-24 Calgary

Hubert Castle Show - No. 2  
May 17-20 Thunder Bay, Ont

Circus Kingdom  
May 17 Macomb, Ill.  
18 Dalton  
19 Chicago  
20 Rockford  
21 Elkhorn, Wisc.  
22 Jefferson  
23 Baraboo

Circus Vargas  
May 19-24 Carson, Calif.

Dixie Bros. Circus  
May 18-19 Mobile, Ala.  
20 Gulfport, Miss  
21-23 New Orleans, La

Europorama  
May 17 Medford, Ore.  
18 Grants Pass  
19 Roseburg

Europorama (continued)  
May 20 Albany, Ore.  
21 Vancouver, Wash  
22 Kelso  
23 Olympia

Garden Bros. Circus  
May 17-22 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Great Y Circus  
May 21-22 Redlands, Cal.

Hamid-Morton Circus  
May 21-23 Trenton, N.J.

Tommy Hanneford Circus  
May 25 Suffern, N.Y.

Happytime Circus  
May 19-23 Terre Linda, Ca

Holiday Hippodrome  
May 17 Aberdeen, N.D.  
18 Watertown  
19 Broomfield  
20 Huron  
21 Pierre  
22 Mitchell  
23 Yankton

Hoxie's Great American Cir.  
May 17 W. Jefferson, NC  
18 Saltville, Va.  
19 Tazewell  
20 Chesapeake, W. Va.  
21 Fairlea  
22 Buena Vista, Va.

King Bros. Circus  
May 17 Krotz Springs, La  
18 Melville  
19 Marksville

King Bros. (Continued)  
May 20 Jerra, La.  
21 Natchez, Miss  
22 Port Gibson  
23 Hazelhurst

Mexico Int'l Circus  
May 21-31 Los Ang, Cal.

Mid-America Circus  
May 17-18 Independence, Mo  
19 St. Joseph  
20 Sedalia  
22 Quincy, Ill.  
23 Bettendorf, Iowa

Polack Bros. Circus  
May 22 Eugene, Ore.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
May 18-23 Hartford, Conn.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit  
to May 31 New York, N. Y.

Royal Bros. Circus  
May 23 Gleichen, Alta.

Sells & Gray Circus  
May 17 South Hill, Va.  
18 Danville  
19 Martinsville  
20 Mayodan, N.C.  
21 Blowing Rock  
22 Mountain City, Tenn

Shrine Circus  
May 24-26 Morristown, N.J.

John Strong Circus  
May 18-19 San Bernardino,  
20-22 Phoenix, Ariz / Ca.  
23 Tucson

**BILLY BARTON....**

than the state of Florida. Milan, for example, played host to four circuses simultaneously, each doing exceptional business. If it could only happen here!

DONNA WILSON and BILL BANNISTER caught the finale of Clyde Bros. in Atlanta, report seeing Bobby Gibbs, The Geraldos, Harold Alzana, Cleo Plunkett, The Young Troupe, Ma Ho Pin, Pauline Duke and the Ruckers. Donna and Bill are doing their new cradle act with Hoxie's Great American.

FLYING SEGARAS set to go on Polack....SAL MURILLO opens with Carden-Johnson at the L.A. Sports Arena May 21 for eleven days, to be followed by two more cities. FAY ALEXANDER will be unit manager....Am told that CELLA GAONA is recuperating from an attack of Hepatitis.

APOLOGIES TO EDDY VENTURA: When the story on Feller Boys & Do Do's Little Rock (Ark) mishap was phoned in, a bad connection garbled the gender. It was EDDY Ventura, not BETTY who was spotting Heinz when he took a spill.

ISABEL LUVAS announced the Sam T. Polack Circus at Columbia (SC) when JIMMY DOUGLASS, the show announcer, was in Lincoln for GRACE MAC INTOSH. Organist JOHN ASBURY handled the band for BOOM BOOM BROWNING, who was also in Lincoln....LOLA (Dobritch) and EMIL GOETCHI visited son Emil, Jr. (De Mille) in Columbia....Also on the date were the VILLAMS, jugglers.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT Italy supports 38 to 42 circuses in a country no larger

HOXIE TUCKER is still taking on too much of a workload despite doctor's orders. Wish he'd take it easy - he is too valuable a showman to put his health in jeopardy.....SELLS & GRAY have been using an old square-end tent until a new top can be ordered.... their new top was lost in a fire. ...GARDEN BROS. plays Trenton (NJ) under canvas.

It's true that the ALBERTO ZOPPE Family will go to Italy in the late fall to tour with LEONIDA CASARTELLI's Circo Medrano. American acts now appearing with Toni's Circo Americano include GALLA SHAWN, FLYING GIBSONS and GUZMAN & MONIQUE. Eddie Murrillo Jr. and wife, Lorredonna, have concessions on that show.

PETER LUVAS, arriving in Columbia, found himself surrounded by acts wanting to know the "real story" on SHOWTIME USA that floundered in troubled waters after only 9 days on the road..... TOMMY BENTLEY advises the Rudy promo in Cincy is doing well, ditto the Salt Lake City promo under the direction of HENRY BARRETT. Rudy will play only ten days starting late June, plus some spots in the fall, but a full tour looms for 1977.

(Continued on Page 24)

## England's Tent Season Starts

The circus tenting season in England seems to start earlier and earlier each year. Gerry Cottle's Circus was the first to open at Kings Cross (London) in February. The next show was Austen Bros. at Nottingham on March 1st. The owners of these two shows were partners a couple of years ago, operating at Cottle & Austen. Now each goes his separate way and while neither were born in the business (unlike most show owners both provide good traditional circus programs with "house" animal acts and specialties coming from outside sources.

Chipperfield's Circus opened at Worcester on March 16; as usual good characteristic fare with plenty of animals, headed by Dick Chipperfield Jr's large group of lions, followed by his new group of leopards and black panthers. Other animals include bears, elephants, horses, ponies, dogs, monkeys, snakes and crocodiles, all presented by members of the family. They also have several animal acts appearing with other shows.

Sir Robert Fossett's Circus opened in Yorkshire in late Mar. while Robert Bros. opened at Leamington Spa on Apr. 5. These two shows, and Chipperfield's, are about the same size and all put on good dependable programs. All have at least one good cage act, plus elephants, horses and traditional circus acts.

Circus Hoffman has been in and out since Christmas and are now in the West Midlands. The size of this show varies from one

year to the next. Not long ago they had a six pole tent and were considered the largest show on our roads. But the departure of three of the five brothers to other branches of the entertainment industry has cut the show down in size. It is an enterprising operation. One year they had an "Ice Circus", last year they featured "The Planet of the Apes" and each year it is something new

James Bros. (cousins of the Fossetts) is a small show with a couple of elephants and using family acts. Usually they play a coastal resort each year. Gandeys Circus is operated by Philip Gandy, the youngest operator in the country (about 20, now). He took over his father's small but popular show two years ago and has maintained its popularity.

There are also several small circuses in England, often with a dozen or less folks. Fossett Br., Apollo, Circus Markus, Sandows, Funtime Circus, all come within this category, and all are back on the road. All are worth seeing if only to admire the pluck and ingenuity of these proper circus "ohmies" who operate and appear in their tiny shows.

In these difficult times it is good to announce the appear-

(Continued on Page 17)

# HAPPYTIME DOG AND PONY CIRCUS

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## Zacchini Show

A recent Nashville engagement, played by the Eddie Zacchini Circus featured the following performers.

Fay Alexander, Les Thinis, Anita Vargas, John Herriott Family, Brickle's Poodles, Fernandez troupe, Flying Lar-Rays, Aquillar Troupe, Walter Patterson & Co., Oscar Cristiani's elephants, Bob Johnson, Zacchini Cannon act, the Venturas, cradle and Zoppe's Space Odyssey. The show's announcer was Bill Borne.

## Tribute Plans

Early this month the Rhode Island Senate voted to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the killing of the elephant "Betty."

A bronze tablet is to be placed on the Chepachet Bridge in the northwestern part of the state marking the spot where the "melancholy and generally overlooked facet of early Rhode Island history" occurred.

The resolution notes that the elephant was touring New England on May 25, 1826, when she was "needlessly" shot and killed.

## Miscellaneous

Lewis Bros. Circus has been pulling straw houses at every performance. They had just one bad day since they opened.

## Hetzer Tour

James Hetzer started his circus tour at Oceana, W. Va., on April 1st and toured through May 4th. All spots were one day starts with the show set-up in high school gyms. For the most part shows were presented in the mornings and afternoons, with some of the morning shows as early as 8:30 a.m. Occasionally a 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. show was scheduled, in spots like Clarksburg.

Business was reported up over that of last year's tour. The Hetzer spring tour is an annual event and the same towns are played each year.

The show line-up included: Gee Gee's uncaged cougar; Clowns (Billy and Jo Jo); Miss Carol's Egyptian Fantasy (doves); The Grimaldis, musical; clown hair-grower; Hetzi, vocalist, who was also the Ringmistress; Jo Jo, musical act; Gee Gee's ponies; Antonucci's chimps; Clowns; Veno Berosini, sword balance; Gee Gee and her elephants (3).

When the Grimaldis had to leave to fulfill previous commitments, Mario and Barbara Albertis joined with their rolling globe and hand balancing acts.

ART WORK for letterheads, cards, envelopes, etc. designed just for you. Write: Beverly Allen, Box 91, Pixley, Calif. 93256 or Phone: (209) 757-3501

## Hunt's Circus

The Hunt's Circus opened its 84th season at Browns Mills (N.J.) on April 27th with two performances. Despite the 38 degree temperature and bad winds they drew a full house for the matinee and a good half house that night.

This is a one ring show and carries no side show. The circus is operated by Marsha Hunt and the animals include: 8 dogs, several ponies, 2 horses, a llama and a young elephant named Dolly.

The program featured:-

Lee Ann Stevens - trapeze  
 Pizza and Popcorn - clowns  
 Miss Teresa - trained llama  
 Lee Ann Stevens - juggling  
 Miss Tina - spanish web  
 Stevens Family - trained dogs  
 Canestrelli Family - horses  
 -- Intermission --  
 Marsha Hunt - magic act  
 Miss Stevens - ponies  
 Pizza and Popcorn - clowns  
 Marsha Hunt - dish balancing  
 Miss Tina - high rigged act

## Hubler's Show

When Hubler's Int'l Circus played Plymouth (Mich.) May 1-2 they provided an excellent show and drew full houses for every performance. Rickey, the clown, did come-in and had a new bag of tricks. Music was expertly handled by Florine Oler.

The program featured:

Opening spec - entire personnel  
 Freddie Troupe - long leaps  
 Harriett Beatty - African lions  
 Ingrid & Walte - spinning plates  
 Rickey and Dondi - clowns  
 Miss Dianne - Spanish web  
 Miss Louise - doves (40)  
 The Circus Clowns  
 Canestrella Family - trampoline  
 Tanga - aerialist  
 The Houcs - juggling  
 The Ortons - balancing ladders  
 Eddie & Eddie Co. - trapeze  
 Rickey and Dondi - clowning  
 Dorothy Kelly - elephants

..... Clarence Hastings

Miss Teresa with "Dolly" the new trained elephant

..... Frank Hoopes

## A Sincere Thanks

to

Margaret Holter - Bob Purett - Bob Mathews, Jr.  
 Herbie Weber

My Father and friends who pushed me and had faith in me to achieve the goals planned. They know who they are.

And last, but not least Mac MacDonald

Without their help Henry Bros. Circus would not have been created.

..... Ivan Henry

## Anniversary Time

Sylvester and Barbara Braun and Frank and Bernice Dean celebrated their wedding anniversaries on the same date last month - April 26th. The Brauns had been married 24 years, while the Deans were celebrating their 41st year of marriage.

Also celebrating a wedding anniversary last month were Chuck and Betty Chism, who were married on April 15th.

All three couples got together and had an anniversary dinner on the "Queen Mary" at Long Beach, Calif.

## Duluth Show

Appearing with the Kaye Cont. Circus at Duluth (May 1-2) were:

Spec - The Circus on Parade

Mitzi's trampoline

Randy & Slyvia

Joyce Rice - juggling

The Kaye Cont'l elephants

Clowns - Dog Pie

Great Arturo - single trapeze

Kathy's canine revue

Clowns - The Dentist

The Smaha Family - horses

-- Intermission --

The Four Flying Ramos

Clowns - The Boxing Match

Baby Dolly, the elephant

Antalek's chimps

The Desert Caravan

Gene Mendez - high wire

The Hernandez Troupe

Pio and Tony Nock - sway poles

Finale - entire personnel

The show staff included:

## SHRINE SHOW

The 18th annual Northeast Shrine Circus was produced by Eddie Zacchini and presented at the Monroe (La.) Civic Center. A total of 9,000 persons attended the three shows, which was competing against a star-studded CP Telethon, just across the street, and other local events.

It was a children's circus for the most part, with the strongest acts being the non-person performers. Cristiani's elephants topped the bill with their grace and polish.

Van Donwen's seals, Alley's bears and Bill Brickle's poodles were stand-out features. Barrada faced some wild lions and his closing trick, a lion sitting on a revolving platform, won hearty applause.

Fay Alexander's comedy auto and the Zoppe 3001 Exploits in Space were crowd pleasers. Missing was the Zacchini cannon act which was announced earlier as a part of the show. There was a definite shortage of clowns and due to other bookings this reporter was unable to join the alley.

..... M. L. Dupont

Paul V. Kaye - producer/director

Judy Kaye - program director

June Dewsbury - wardrobe

John MacKaye - producing clown  
with Mike Klucker, June Dewsbury and Koko Sprath.

# Show Visit

.....by AL HOUSE

While vacationing in Florida I saw the Sells & Gray Circus at New Smyrna Beach, its second day out (April 17). All of the trucks are well painted and the canvas is beautiful - all red, white and blue.

The big top provides three rings and has a unique device for rigging aerial acts which saves time and problems. Seats are the bleacher style, 9 rows high, all around the tent. There is no band but the recorded music seems to come across good and the sound system is a good one.

The performance was reported in CR on May 10 -Page 6. It is an evenly balanced show, with many people working in several acts. Clowning is handled by John Block and Jose Antonio, who are European type clowns. Additional comedy is provided by the Earls, with their Bonnie & Clyde number. He also serves as ringmaster. The two elephants - Bessie and Topsy - are handled by Gary Thomas.

## PEOPLE

ART "Doc" MILLER recently suffered a heel injury requiring a cast. As a result he has been forced to return home for rest and recovery. Cards and letters can be sent him at: Rte. 3 - Box 323-C, Starke, Fla. - 32091.

CAROL STEBBING recently lost one of her tigers despite an around the clock effort to save the animal. She had raised it from a tiny cub.

The midway has a concession stand, and pony ride on one side, with Henry Thompson's Side Show on the opposite side. Tickets for the side show are 25¢ and 50¢ and big show tickets are \$3.00 and \$2.00 (adults and children).

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## Youth Circus

"The 24th annual tour of the Wenatchee Youth Circus is shaping up very well," says Paul Pugh, show director. "Most of our dates are all signed, with just a few still to be confirmed."

This year the show will use all new red and white canvas, new dressing tops, ring carpets and lots of new costumes. The big show band will offer both traditional and new music, including two marches and a waltz written by Barbara Taggart of Illinois.

Acting as Paul's assistant is Joe Anderson, a former Youth Circus performer and for the past four years he served as head coach for the Peru Circus Festival. New to the circus this year are four youngsters from Ashton's Circus in Australia. They are here for the summer with Mrs. Lorraine Grant, daughter of the Ashtons.

Some 18 of the circus' alumni have been hired by Marriott's "Great American" Park at Santa Clara, Calif. They will be presenting a 45 minute circus program at the park four times a day, starting June 12 through Labor Day.

The Community Center at Farmington, Mich., will hold a Clown School from June 28 to Aug. 3rd. Rickey, the Clown (Irv Romig) will be the instructor. Sessions will be scheduled every Tuesday and Thursday.

## From Chile

This is not a good year for circuses in Chile, reports J. F. Dolphin, from Talcahuano. A combination of bad weather and inflation has cut down on attendance, he adds. Even some of the large shows, which formerly only played big cities are now showing in any small town where they think they can draw in a few dollars.

Salaries are low in Chile and expenses are high, as a result the average family has very little money left over for entertainment. There is still an elite class that spends the summer months in the southern part of the state and as a result many shows head that way during vacation time.

In all there are 15 circuses in Chile and the people are great circus fans. However, as the cost of living climbs some shows are bound to disappear.

The Circus Association of Chile is working to establish a permanent exhibit of the circus at Santiago. They would like to obtain posters, photos, etc. Anyone wishing to donate material can write to: J. Francis Dolphin, Casilla 6-D, Talcahuano, Chile.

## PEOPLE

THE NOVAKS (risley and foot jugglers from Holland) are touring the U.S. and visiting as many American circuses as possible.

## FLECKLES SHOW

The recent Sphinx Shrine Circus at Hartford (Conn.) featured the L. N. Fleckles Circus, which was in ahead of RBBB.

The program included:

Overture - Al Youngman, director  
Spec - Circus personnel

Kalmas - rola bola

Martin - juggling

Lucky Bros. - knockabout

Guy Gossing - tigers (right hand was injured in one show)

The Pharoahs - aerial cradle

Clowns - Mike, Mustafa, Koko

Mlle. Louise - doves

Aerial Ballet - with Fosset's

"Girl In the Moon"

Eric Adams - chimps

The Albanis - aerial motorcycle

Eddie & Eddie Co. - casting

The Swaying Stars - sway poles

-- Intermission --

Lamberty, Jr. - balancing

## Show Acts

Acts currently appearing at the Old Chicago Mall include: Saul Shafton, announcer; Emil Hahn, bandmaster; Ginger Lee, web Zamudio, head balance trap; Slater, slack wire juggling; Reggie Van Young III; Cleo, the Mean Little Kid, comedy; Slater's wonder dogs; Zamudio Duo, high wire; The Great Boros, sway pole.

Other entertainers include: Arwood's Dogs; The Kellys; Tony & Chris and Jack Kratt, banjo.

---

Great Acadis - balancing  
Tibor Alexander's Wonder Dogs  
The Clowns  
The Edwardos - bicycles  
Mr. Rhythm - horse act (left here for the Kentucky Derby)  
The Clowns  
Eloise Berchtold - elephants  
The Quassars - aerial rocketship  
..... Dave Orr

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## Visit To....

Capacity crowds attended almost every performance of the Carden-Johnson Circus at Springfield (Mo.) on April 19-25. The show featured many three ring displays

Several new acts were featured in the 2½ hour show, all of which were well received. A great deal of applause greeted Betty Woods and her doves, for it was a truly unique act.

The program included:  
Curt and Betty - high perch act  
Barradas - bears  
Tony Fagundas - camels  
Glen Henry - ponies  
The Staneks - balance pole  
David Conners, The Langs and Bob

Plies - juggling display  
The Circus clowns  
Chris Plunkett - tight wire  
The circus clowns  
Glen Henry, Ralph Ruckers and  
Nolly Tate - dogs  
Bob Plies & Dave Connor - unicycle  
Josalito - high wire

-- Intermission --  
The Dells - flying act  
The circus clowns  
The Staneks - teeterboard  
Ralph Ruckers - goats  
The Barredas chimps  
The circus clowns  
Bob Plies, The Plunkett Family  
and The Langs - trampoline  
Betty Woods - trained doves  
The circus clowns  
Elephant banner ad announcement  
Tony Fagundas - elephants (3)  
Johnny Luxem - Wheel of Destiny

..... B. Everett Eslinger

## G-M Tour

Most of the Sam T. Polack show personnel visited the George Matthews Circus at Birmingham (Ala) and while there attended a surprise birthday party for Lee Mister. Among the visitors were: Sam and Gen Polack, Billy Barton, The Jordans, Bobby Davis, Feller Boys and Do Do, The Andersons, Chabira, Benaka and Mike Marking.

Staff on the G-M Circus includes: Ed Russell, ringmaster; Lee Mister, cookhouse; Wally Bickmore, mechanic; Jeff Wagner, canvas; Rick Brown, props; Nick Bengor, supt.; Glen McCloskey, 24 hour man and Herbie Weber, concessions.

The show program features:  
Bicentennial Salute with Craig Carlson as Uncle Sam (on high stilts). Cliff Moresi, band.  
Magana's African lions (7)  
Clowns -  
Davey Bros. and Gwen - juggling in end rings - finish in the center ring  
Miss Lu Ann - single trapeze  
Clowns - The Dentist  
Baldwin's Chimps  
Great Huberto - slide for life  
Wal-Tims - risley  
Craig Carlson - hand balancing  
Uncle Heavy's Pork Chop Revue  
-- Intermission --  
The Flying Segaras (4)  
The Clowns  
Los Latinos - tightwire  
The Patricks, Segara Trio and  
The Orwyns - rola bola  
Clowns - The Washwoman  
G-M Circus elephants

## P'ATTERSON BROS.

When Patterson Bros. Circus played Adrian, Mich. (May 5-6) they worked in the local Armory. The program, with Jon Friday, as ringmaster featured:-

Lynne Barker & Family - dogs  
Rickey Romig and Les Brown - the circus clowns

The Barrys - comedy trapeze  
Clowns - Long Distance Call  
Armanda - rola bola acrobatics  
2 Anys from Zanesville - comedy  
Lang's chimps

Gloria's Busy B's - dogs, monkey  
and a baboon

Miller Bros. - aerial feature  
Clowns - The Big Chicken  
The Michaels - juggling  
Circus Clowns  
Gorgo, the Gorilla

Circus Fans seen attending the circus included: Don and Martha Smith, Hayes Ganiard and Clarence Hastings.

## Show Staff

The staff on Hoxie's Great American Circus includes:

Bill Hill - general manager  
Joe Carabetta - office manager  
George Reese - electrician  
Rick Pasca - big top/animals  
Les Moyer - mechanic  
Mike McGuire - concessions  
C. J. Matchett - 24 hour man  
Chas. Moyer - announcer/band dir.  
Dave Miller - organist  
Les Moyer - drummer

## Remember ?

I remember when Lu Grier put up an elephant as security in a poker game. He won enough to move the Campbell Bros. Cole Circus in 1913. The show was deep in the red and if Lu hadn't won at the poker game the show would have folded. The next town brought good business and from there on the tour was a good one. .... Tad Tosky

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# Hoxie's American Beauty

..... by BILLY BARTON

With his Matser's Touch, Hoxie Tucker has done it again - this time with the creation of Hoxie's Great American Circus, caught on Apr. 28, at Sparta, Ga. It's picture post-card pretty with its "snow ball" red big top, a 70 ft. with two 20's and a 40, and its blue and white sidewall. Inside, the quarter poles push through blue circles with white stars. This show not only is new, it looks and smells new. The marquee is red, has "Welcome To The Circus" in white letters across the front, has a solid blue entrance curtain, with a giant white "H" in its center.

Blue and white stringers encircle the top, seats 1900. All bally cloths, connections and curtains are red and white. One ring, red and white, is used, with two solid red stage cloths on each side. The band trailer backs into the tent and the organ sets on a platform. Ridge cables and jiggers provide aerial acts with a full height of 32 ft. The big show tickets are \$3.00 (adults) and \$2.00 (children) no reserves.

The midway is also brightly painted in red, white and blue. Two flashy semis front the side show - the only bad canvas on the show and it is being replaced. On the midway is a mounted Himalayan Monster show, a concession trailer, elephant ride and the ticket trailer. The Pit Show is 25¢ for everyone. Side show is 75¢.

Bandleader Charles Moyer handles the side show, which is act-

ually a "zoo" housing a variety of animals - camel, llama, monkey elephants, donkey and caged wild animals. Star of the side show is Kongo, the Gorilla, who lives in an air-conditioned, glass fronted semi. He is a fascinating creature, easily as large as the famed Mlle. Toto, once on Ringling. The gorilla attracts large crowds and generates excitement, as does its twin Mongo, featured in the Hoxie Bros. Circus.

A cookhouse is carried for the workingmen, a small top, plus a cook wagon. Eleven pieces of rolling stock, including a spool wagon, transport the show.

Featured in the big show is the Alberto Zoppe Family. In addition to presenting his own acts Alberto is the equestrian director, and works a six pony drill broken this past winter by John Herriott. Billy Gunga, supervises props, is a side show ticket seller and presents his acts. Margaret McGuire fronts the pit show.

Hoxie Tucker says that business for both shows is up to expectations and he expects a banner season for his two shows. The Hoxie show is headed for Illinois while the Great American will go into Long Island and that area.



## \$500 Reward

For information leading to the recovery of a 31', 1972 Holiday Rambler Travel Trailer, Serial #S-72227123812, previously in the possession of Richard Freeman, AKA Richard Simpson, AKA Little Richard.

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## Castle Show

Acts appearing in the Hubert Castle Circus at its recent Indianapolis date were:

Tarzan Zerbini, wild animals; aerial display with Wendy, Cello, Roberta, Jane, Sarah, Carrey, Elizabeth, Deborah, featuring the Saturnaires; Marhal camels and llamas, Milonga's horses; Jo Ann and Toma, and Charmaine's Playmates; display with Zavattas, Bisbinis, Martinez Duo, Sarazochil and the Marios; Five Rodrigues, aerial bars; Dale Harney, illusions; Cline's elephants; Dianos' elephants; Castle's elephants; Anita Vargas, slack wire; Mlle. Jacqueline, rock ship; The Rock-Smith Flyers; Hall's Monkeys Kastle's bears; Miamba's Baboons; Wilson's Pets; The Tabaks; Les Fantasias; The Galambos; Karl Linares, poodles; Bucko, the Mule; Lee Marx; Doris Trio; Robertos; Drougettes; Cycling Wizards; Roger Zoppe's Arabian Riders; the Friel-Smith Cannon act.

## ENGLAND'S CIRCUSES (Continued)

ance of two new British shows. Phil Enos, who hails from America, has started his own Phil Enos Circus, with family acts, plus acts from the McManus-Paulo family. Phil has a "crazy car" and has appeared with Chipperfields, Smarts and other shows.

The other show is the revival of the Pinder Circus by members of the original family, who have been with Fossetts, and who have long wanted to get their name on their own show.

There are persistent rumors that Billy Smart's Circus will be on the road this year for an Autumn tour. Smarts have been off the road since 1971, but have kept their name before the public through TV and by having their animal acts appear on other shows. Their equipment has been kept in First Class condition and many of their original personnel are kept employed at their Safari Park.

..... Jack Niblett

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Also want 300 ft. of sidewall  
7 to 8 ft. high.

# PEOPLE

THE HENNEBERRY FAMILY entertained a state meeting of the Grotto at Pekin (Ill.) where a special tribute was paid to Grotto member PAUL ZALLEE (87) who is still an active performer. At one time he operated the Zallee Bros. Circus.

TOMMY CLARK, former Beatty-Cole prop boss, worked concessions at the Fleckles show in Hartford, Conn.

GERRY and KAYE SCHEIMAN visited the Paul Kaye Circus at Terre Haute (Ind) and Gerry was put to work in the animal dept.

POM and TOM DONOHO have been rehearsing a new two elephant act at San Antonio (Texas) which is booked into a Georgia Park. The animals were trained by Mac Mac Donald.

TONY FOSSETT debuts his new kangaroo act on the Hanneford show during its Canadian tour. At the same time IRENE FOSSETT will debut her chimp act.

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MARGY HENNEBERRY ROGERS, oldest daughter of the Henneberry Family, recently chaperoned 52 senior high school students from Bradford (Ill.) to Washington, DC. In addition to touring the capitol city, they visited the RBBB Circus.

The MAC KAYE DUO and YOKO & COOKIE (Clowns) did four weeks of advance work for Hoxie's Great American, then made the Duluth date for Paul Kaye and have now joined Carden-Johnson Circus.



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## BIG JOHN STRONG

During its recent Central California dates the Big John Strong Circus was preparing for its extended eastern tour. Show personnel were busy painting and renewing equipment and a sign painter was engaged in lettering and adding scroll trim to the big show trucks.

Increases in attendance were noted, resulting in increased business for all departments. The show, which has been out since January, moves smoothly and efficiently under the direction of general supt. Wally Wallentin and Norman Davis, mechanic. Office duties and program direction are handled by Betty Wendany.

The show program featured:  
 Introduction of Big John Strong  
 Heidi and Chris - aerial webs  
 Don Young - comedy dog/juggling  
 Chris De Wayne - elephant  
 The Clowns - Boxing Match  
 John & Heidi - juggling  
 Clowns - Balancing Eggs  
 Betty Wendany - pony drill  
 Sandy Strong - trained macaw  
 Heidi Wendany - swinging ladder  
 Clown on ladder  
 -- Color Book Pitch --  
 Sandy & Chris - trained dogs  
 Clowns - The Balloon  
 Princess Omar - one finger stand  
 Bicentennial Finale  
 (The Michael Family acts were scheduled to join the show this week).

## M & M SHOW

The program produced by the M&M Circus for the Sesostris Temple Shrine Circus, at Lincoln (Nebr.) April 27-May 2 featured:

James Douglass - ringmaster  
 Wm. Browning - band leader  
 Manuel Navarro - prop supt.  
 Gary Allen - Wild animals  
 Rummel Duo - high aerial act  
 Two Torreanis - tight wire  
 Senorita Carmen - tight wire  
 The Endres - pole act  
 Navarro Family - unicycles  
 The Carlos - bicycle act  
 The Johnsons - bear act  
 The Carlos - perch pole  
 Victor Julian - dog revue  
 Carmen del Molino, plus Raquelita, Susan, Carol, Esterlita, Jennifer, Ginny - aerialists  
 Los Obandos - high wire  
 Barbara's mixed animal revue  
 Don Philips & Co. - unicycle  
 The Staneks - teeterboard  
 Barbara and Walt King - elephant  
 The Raijas - balancing  
 The Cassidys - rolling globes  
 The Flying Lar-Rays

.... C. C. Day

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## CFA SHOW

The Stebbing Royal European Circus is currently playing thru Northern Louisiana on its way to the CFA Convention in Dallas. They have hit some unusually cold weather, but are providing an excellent show.

This is a great show and is making an impressive appearance everywhere. Certainly CFA members will enjoy the show and feel it was an excellent choice for their convention.

..... M. L. Dupont

N. O. Date signed (Continued) kins, show executive; Ray Winder, public relations and producer Tommy Hanneford.

The Hanneford Circus started its Canadian tour on May 10th. Meanwhile Parkins is preparing special material on the show for presentation at the Shrine Convention in Kansas City, in a move to obtain additional engagements for next year.

Philip Morris has been visiting on the show, working out new costume and production plans for the 1977 season. In the meantime Don Basham is directing the "Raz-zle Dazzle" and other numbers in this year's program.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Cal. 94530.

Subscription rate: \$12.00 for the year; \$6.00 for six months.

## That New Show

Advance newspaper reports at San Antonio (Texas) announced the League of Latin American Citizens were sponsored the May 9th appearance of the Lulac Circus in that city. According to the newspaper accounts the show is presented by Circus Galaxy, and is the largest show of its kind on the road today. Its program runs two hours and 45 minutes and features some 100 performers.

Among the acts listed in an article about the show were: The Flying Aztecas; The Ramos Riding Act; Oresto; Nino Santos; Gary Johnson; the Oscarian Troupe; The Bishops and many others.

Show prices were listed as \$2.50 and \$1.50, with tickets at the door costing \$3.50 and \$2.50.

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## Shrine Date

Acts featured on the Kaye Ctl Circus at Terre Haute (Ind) for the Apr. 9-11 engagement were:

Spec - Circus Parade  
 Lorelei, Sergio, Bobby - trapeze  
 Gary Brunke - African lions (8)  
 The Jupiters - triple trapeze  
 Clowns - Sharpshooters  
 Don Phillips - unicycle/juggling  
 Piasoni - Acrobat  
 Mr. Bell - balancing  
 Clowns - The Yelling Contest  
 Paul Kelly - the Kaye elephants  
 Dorothy Kelly - elephants  
 Bob and Rosa Gibbs - elephants  
 Arturo - single trapeze, plus 4  
 web girls in display  
 Clowns - Tug-of-War  
 Lona Antalek, Katinka, Bob Gibbs  
 - trained dog numbers  
 Sensational Leighs - space wheel  
 -- Intermission --  
 The Flying Ramos Troupe  
 Clowns - Bridal photograph  
 Antalek's chimps  
 Dorothy Kelly - single elephant  
 Bob Gibbs - camel and pony  
 Gene Mendez - high wire  
 Patterson, Ramos and Piasoni -  
 trampoline numbers  
 The Pilatus - sway pole  
 Bicentennial Finale

.... Kaye Scheiman

## Miscellaneous

Several members of the Great Y Circus recently visited Polack Bros. and Circus Vargas at Southern California dates this month.

## A Put Down?

During a recent shopping center engagement for Hoxie Bros. Circus, horse trainer Bradd Frank was cleaning up after his animals when a family group paused to admire the horses.

A girl of about 10 was telling the others about the circus, what she had seen and the animals. She commented that the man (Bradd) must be one of the circus performers.

At this point a smaller girl of about 6 years, interrupted and said, "He's not a circus performer, he's only a groom. A performer wouldn't do this sort of work."

## IDEAS SOUGHT (Continued)

carefully reviewed and may well become a Ringling reality. Those offering ideas will receive a copy of "Nation's Governors Salute The Greatest Show on Earth" a compilation of letters from a majority of the country's chief executives who have recently penned comments regarding the circus (This is a collector's item as no other distribution is intended for public release.)

All material (ideas or stories) should be sent to Public Relations Dept., Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, 1015 - 18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. All material becomes the property of the circus and none can be returned.

**Interview:** With WES and FLORINE OLDER .....Billy Barton

WES OLDER began his fair route with only a few fairs. That was several years ago. Now he has a route of 14, starting in Lowville, N.Y., on July 19th and closing Oct. 16th at Orangeburg, S.C. "When I took over those fairs, some had budgets established twenty years ago," Wes informed CR. "I asked one Fair President why the budget was never increased. 'No one ever asked me to,' he said. That particular fair had a budget of a little over \$4000. Now it is up to \$12,000"

Wes Oler's wife, Florine, well-known organist, has played dates for Rudy Bros., Hubler, Zacchini and others. When Wes is on tour with his Fair Units, Florine "retires". "Often," she says, "I handle one fair while Wes is at another. Some of them overlap."

"She's good at it, too!" Wes remarks proudly.

Asked if she ever plays the programs at fairs, Florine replied. "On only a handful. Most of the fairs - at least the ones we handle want Country and Western, so there is no program for me to play."

Wes interjects: "It bothers me that so many fairs want only Country-Western. Now, don't get me wrong. I like Country-Western, but if they want flea-circuses, flag-pole sitters, or streakers,

that's what I'll give them. Naturally we're partial to our circus friends. I've tried my damnest to sell at least one novelty act to each fair but, lately, they're just not interested."

"At fair conventions," Florine says, shaking her head, "the walls in our room are plastered with pictures of acts. The committees go straight to the books with Country-Western entertainers. That's what they pick."

"And they're expensive!" says Wes.

The Olers did manage to sell some circus attractions which include Al Vidbel's combination package of animal acts: elephants, ponies, dressage horse, chimps and doves, plus petting zoo; Miss April, high pole; Antonucci's chimps; The Commancheros (cradle and revolving ladder); Angela Wilnow and her braves; KoKo and Korki, clowns, and novelty entertainers Garray and Tomio and Jim Matson.

"Illusionist Joe Smiley is very popular with fair committees. He's booked on most of our fairs. ...but not always with his act. Often he just MC's."

"He provides scenery, too," interrupts Florine.

The Country-Western headliners booked by Wes include: The Conway Twitty Show, the Cal Smith

(Continued on Page 25)

# HOXIE BROS. 3-RING CIRCUS

Compiled by PAUL E. FITZPATRICK, MD

April 15, 1976 - Covington, Georgia

Fred Kitchen, bandmaster John Hall, Gen. Mgr.  
Phil Chandler, Ringmaster

Bicentennial Salute - Spec -  
Fanfare  
America on Parade  
Stars & Stripes Forever  
Red, White and Blue  
Yankee, Doodle Dandy

Michael - Cat act -  
Shaft Theme  
Tequila  
Born Free  
Love Is A Many Splendored Thing  
Kismet  
Big Cage Galop

Gary Henry - Egg Balance -  
No Music

Comedy Car Act -  
Merry Oldsmobile  
Take Me Home

Web Number - Graciella  
Grand Old Flag  
Killing Me Softly  
Last Tango in Paris  
Go Galop  
Dear Heart  
Fascination  
Dear World

The Franks - horse act -  
It's Not Unusual

Chim Chim Cheree  
Spinning Wheel  
Strike Up The Band

Cortez Family - high wire -  
Almanaza  
The Breeze and I  
Mr. Lucky Theme  
Exodus Theme  
La Paloma  
Mr. Lucky Theme  
Zingarella

Clown number -  
Popcorn, the Clown

ZoeAnna - Roman Riding -  
Apache  
Walk, Don't Run  
Wm. Tell Overture

Diaz Sisters - unicycles -  
That's Entertainment -  
Zing Went My Heart Strings  
Swanee  
Somebody's Taking My Place  
Baby Face

The Franks - whips and ropes -  
Currito de Lacuz  
El Rancho Grande  
Buttons & Bows  
Magnificent Seven Theme  
Bonanza Theme  
Oklahoma

Jim and Linda - elephants -  
Elefante  
Baby Elephant Walk  
Jungle Drums  
Burma Patrol  
Turkey in the Straw  
Lady of France  
Int'l Vaudeville March  
Night Train  
Arche de Triumphe  
Beautiful Lady in Blue  
Rock-a-bye Baby  
Schirmeck March  
Stars and Stripes Forever

Clowns - Gary and Pony -  
Beer Barrel Polka

Diaz Sisters - juggling -  
Mombo Jambo  
Bridge Over River Kwai

Gary and Popcorn - Clowns  
El Cumbanchero

Flying Columbians - trapeze -  
C'est Paree'  
Melody of Waltzes  
Merry Widow Waltz  
Belle of the Ball  
Vienna Life  
Wintersports Galop

Finale -  
This is My Country

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## The Band

Members of the Hoxie Bros.  
Circus band include:-

Fred Kitchen - cordovox/leader  
Joe Eddy - drums  
Rick Percy - trumpet  
Dave Percy - saxophone



BILLY BARTON (Continued)

Coincidental with the FAY ALEXANDER story, concluding with this issue, is the footnote that when TRAPEZE premiered in New York City at the Capitol Theatre, RUGGERA (Zoppe) did her trapeze act above the theatre marquee. At each performance she was harrassed by city police until she was forced to discontinue the act, at which point Alberto Zoppe rigged up a "dummy" that sung on the trapeze in her place.

On my recent visits to the G-M Circus and Hoxie's Great American I found hospitality plus! Attended the birthday bash under the big top for G-M Chef LEE MISTER, and SANDY and ALBERTO ZOPPE (on Hoxie), treated me to a great meal. Everywhere I went I found raves for CR.

PAM ROSAIRE visited her sister in Georgia between SAM POLACK dates.....DIANO's ELEPHANTS, JIMMY DOUGLASS, currently with Dixie Bros....DAVID CHABIRA, clown, to Circus World in July....PABLO, a former RBBB wild animal trainer, now with Circus Toni in Italy.... Russian aerialist MARINA RADULESCU "retired" because she was having recurring night-mares about falling - a terrible experience as any aerialist can tell you. I can only hope a "rest" brings her out of it. It would be a shame for this beautiful performer to be sidelined.

GUY GOSSING was clawed during the Hartford run, but was OK by the Columbia date for Sam Po-

lack....ALFONSO MAGANA, clawed on the G-M Circus, is recuperating, and JOSE BARRADA clawed this winter by a bear, is coming along nicely.

Run, don't walk to see ALFRED HITCHCOCK's "Family Plot", the suspense Master's best in years....The screenplay writer of the TOM MIX story, soon to be filmed, spent the entire spring tour with SID KELLNER.

PRINCE NAJVEZ back at the ONSTAGE DISCO in Long Island until May 29th....HUBLER will play the June Lexington Shrine date indoors. It's always been outdoors before....HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS is using a frame a la the Ringling show for its rigging acts. The high wire rigging is the only act that goes up separately.

WORLD OF ACCIDENTAL WIT: MAE WEST having trouble with the switchboard at her Ravenswood apartment building, developed the problem was rooted with the L.A. Telephone Co. Mae stormed from the kitchenette, "They want to know what my number is!" she exploded. "Now, how would I know that! I NEVER call myself!"

See you down the road, luvs.

## PEOPLE

PUNCH JACOBS joins the Lewis Bros. Circus this week for the remainder of the season.

SEN. TED KENNEDY and his son visited the Beatty-Cole Circus or May 5th as guests of Frank Mc Closky.

## THE OLER INTERVIEW (Continued)

Show, Hee-Haw's Susan Ray, the Jeannie Pruett show, the Edwardians, the Jim Glaser show, Blackwood Singers, the Barbara Fairchild show, the Judy Lynn show, the Jim Ed Brown show, Jerry Clower, the Florida Boys and the Dixie Melody Boys.

New York State Fairs include Lowville, Westport, Malone, Midletown, and Afton. North Carolina fairs: Hickory, Fayetteville Wilson and Goldsboro. Orangeburg, S.C., two fairs in Indiana and one in Pennsylvania round out the schedule.

Florine seemed more interested in discussing their son, Phil, drummer with the Gatti-Charles Circus; also their Lakeside home in Knox, Indiana. She pulled pictures of both to show CR. "Phil," she beamed, "is the best show drummer in the business! This is his first season on his own. Look," and she pointed to a picture of a baby, "I'm a grandmother!"

We looked. And at pictures of their lovely home by a peaceful lake to which the Olers were now enroute. "I sure miss working with Phil," Florine sighs. "He knows all the tempos, the old and the new."

"Next time you work with him, we said, "he'll be telling you what to do."

"And if he's right," remarks Florine, gathering up her pictures, "I'll listen."

## A Marked Route

A few years back, Ed Reynolds now CFA Public Relations Director and family were off on a vacation from Ed's duties, then, as Associate Director of Press Information, CBS-TV. His brother Vin, a long-time CFA member and a stalwart of the Tom Thumb Tent, Norwalk, Conn., was scheduled to join them a day later.

On arrival, Ed, wife Ruth and the kids found there was a change and better accommodations were available; they grabbed 'em, but how could they inform Vin of the change? Phone calls produced no response. Then Ed had an idea. He bought a pad of plain white paper, a broad felt marker with red ink and some Scotch tape, then put in a busy evening.

Next morning, Vin arrived at the turn-off junction, sort of half-noticed a circus-style red arrow pointing right. It didn't really register until several arrows later, when he asked himself "What kind of an idiot would route a circus down a country road like this?"

A closer look disclosed the triangle arrow tips were flanked by the letters "V R". He got the message and followed the arrows to their destination - a good week of fishing and relaxation.



# Monday, May 31

25 miles east of Cambridge, Ohio, and 25 miles west of Wheeling, W. Va., I-70 at exit to Barnesville-Dennison, in the Village of Hendrysburg, at the big Concert Building.

Hundreds of old 8x10 glossies of motion picture, carnival, radio, circus, etc. - Hundreds of old Billboards, Calliope, Bandwagon, White Tops, Variety and many more magazines. - A case of old 35mm silent motion picture film. Old posters and window cards of various shows - Beautiful roll on magicians table - Fine collection of hard and soft cover books, including old theatrical catalogs. "This is a very rare find." Circus trays, a must for your den - Dunningers Encyclopedia of Magic - Items too numerous to mention.

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## ROUTES

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 May 18-20 Macon, Ga.  
 21-27 Atlanta
- Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit  
 May 18-23 Chicago Hghts, Ill.
- Century 21 Shows - Red Unit  
 May 19-Jun 5 St. Louis, Mo.
- James H. Drew Shows  
 May 17-22 Oceana, W. Va.
- Ice Follies  
 May 19-30 Oakland, Calif.
- Magic Capades  
 May 17 St. George, Utah  
 19 Pocatello, Idaho
- Prof. Miller & Co. (Magic)  
 May 17 Oakville, Ont.  
 18 Griffia  
 20 North Bay  
 21 Timmins  
 22 Sudbury  
 23 Sault Ste. Marie



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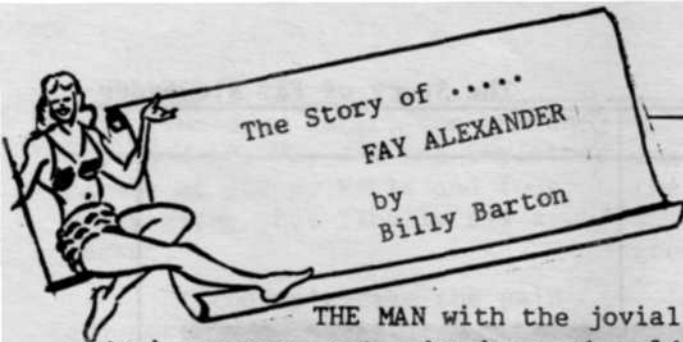
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## Chapter Nine

## "From Flyer to Funny Man"

THE MAN with the jovial tramp face, the over-sized tacky racoon coat, who drove the old tin-lizzie a-sputtering down the track, would pass that way no more. Ernie Wiswell, one of the originators of the "funny ford" was dead.

His wife, Frieda, tried for a few seasons to continue the act, getting first one and then another to front it, while she remained at her post where she had always been - inside the body of the car. Either the front men didn't work out or else Frieda just tired of trying. At any rate, in 1966, she sold the car to Fay Alexander.

Meanwhile Fay, over the years had broken in Bobby and Dorothy Yerkes, and his own wife, Rose, forming the Flying Alexanders. The act had been featured on every major circus in the U.S. The cast members changed from time-to-time, the act also changed, once as a double wide with Dobritch featuring a very young Terry Cavaretta, but the name THE FLYING ALEXANDERS had become a stamp of flying excellence here at home and abroad.

"I couldn't fly forever," says Fay, "so I bought the car. In 1967 I tried it out on a few dates, It went over so well I booked it with the Flying Act from then on. I called the new act "Al's Lemon-zeen."

Shoulder trouble had plagued Fay throughout his career. He first

dislocated his shoulder working with Ted DeWayne in the late forties. In 1974, during his very first engagement of the season, Fay dislocated his shoulder for the third time. And, toward the end of that season, at the Raleigh, N.C., State Fair, he broke the bicep muscle in his right arm.

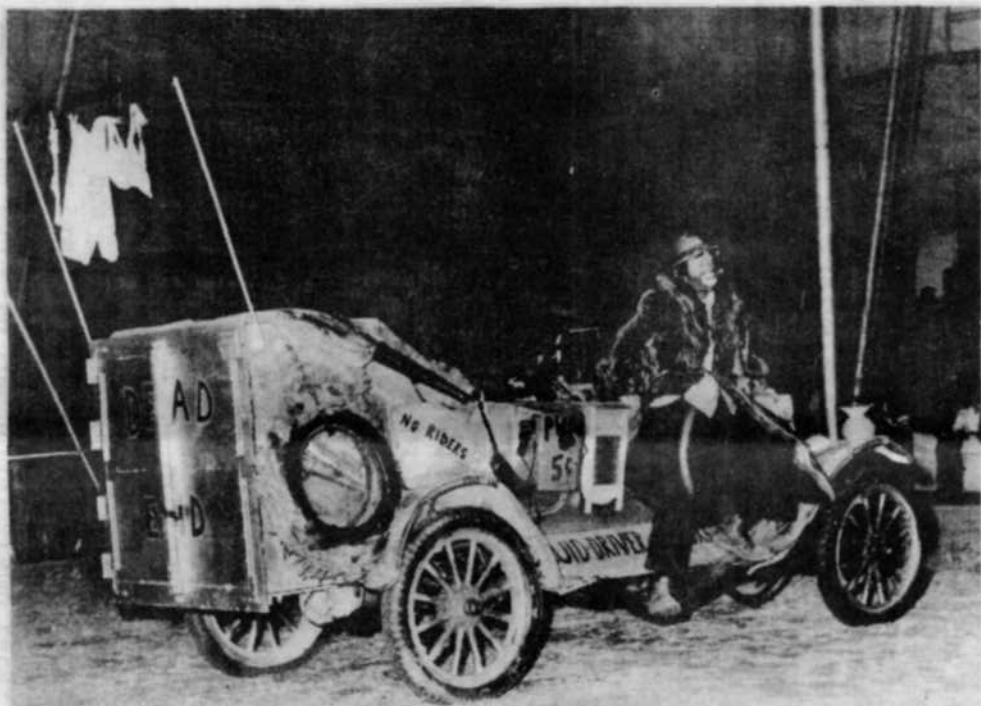
"That's it," Fay said, and loaded the rigging and Rosie and went home to Sarasota.

The decision to abandon the flying act was firm. Perhaps it was just as well. The comedy car was less trouble than an act involving other people. "Besides," says Fay, "it was easier to battle with Rosie on the ground than it was in the air."

They went off to play a Christmas show in Tampa. The act was going great until Fay went into the box on the back of the car which, after an explosion, "hurls" Fay out of it and to the ground.

The bomb went off but the door stuck as Fay went through it, stopping his momentum. The left shoulder, injured so often, was broken at last.

(Continued on Page 3)



Fay Alexander working a tented show date  
with his comedy car - Al's Lemon-zeen

Two days later, the arm unattended to, Fay did the Christmas Parade at Disney World and four weeks after that finally saw a doctor.

"I couldn't take the pain any more and, believe me! I had learned to take a lot of pain!"

"Fella," the doctor informed him. "There are so many things wrong with your shoulder I don't know where to begin. You have a 3/4 inch separation, three bone fractures, two bone spurs and on top of that you have arthritis."

The doctor suggested an operation. Fay refused.

"Then your flying days are finished."

"You have to fly in a comedy car?"

While Fay and Rosie were on the road with the car in 1975 the shoulder healed. "All those doctors want to do is cut you up. I'd have been finished years ago if I had let them do the things to me they wanted to do."

And to prove a point, Fay mounted Donny Johnson's rigging and started to fly again. "I did a pike forward, a drive somersault, and a pirouette back from both. My arm felt great and so did I!"

- EPILOGUE -

It is 1976. Mid-morning. The Shrine Circus is playing the fairgrounds coliseum in Detroit.

Fay Alexander is on the Flying Dells' rigging, soaring like the American Eagle. Television cameras are positioned on the ground, around the net.

"Isn't he beautiful?" murmurs a performer in admiration.

We look up. Fay is now in the catch trap. Betty Woods leaves the pedestal board, executes a perfect double into Fay's hands.

Fay comes down, rolls out of the net. Rosie walks up to him with a coat. "You know something, honey?...."

Fay looks at her.

"I always knew you could make it!" A hint of tears glistened in the corner of her eyes.

They hugged each other and walked away.



Fay Alexander and his Comedy Car

FAY ALEXANDER

Presents

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3222 FIFTY FIRST STREET  
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