



4th Year

November 17, 1975

Number 46

Investment Underway

An investigation into circus promotional activities in and around Oregon City (Ore.) is currently being conducted by local officials. Approved by the City Council and the Oregon Police Patrolmen's Assoc. (OPPA), the investigation is a victory for Councilman John Fletcher, who has been an outspoken opponent of the circus promotion for several years.

In a plea to the council, asking for their support, Fletcher denounced the circus, the OPPA and the city's leaders. He asked the Mayor to remove a local official from office and to resign himself, saying that they had failed "to take any

good show

This year's annual Shrine Circus, at Utica, N.Y., was the 29th annual circus sponsored by the Ziyara Shrine Temple

The show, produced by Hubert Castle, drew well throughout the engagement and featured Christopher James on the tight wire, doing the act that Castle made famous some years ago.

action to halt the attack of the army of solicitors who were even then bilking the well intentioned people of the city of Oregon in the guise of charity."

The Mayor has refused to resign and denies he had any information about unlawful practices being carried out. At the same time Ralph Adams, vice president of the OPPA, said the circus and OPPA were clean and

(Continued on Page 15)

A Nice Visit

Visited RBBB's Red Unit at Pittsburgh (Pa.) on Nov. 1st and it was interesting to compare the show with what I saw in May.

Props and wagons are showing signs of a long hard season and are in need of paint. However the costumes still have their original dazzle and the performers still show enthusiasm.

They had good local newspaper coverage here and attendance was good. Especially noticeable by his absence was Lou Jacobs, who is at the clown college.

.... Don Curtis

Lost Cub Found

Back on Sept. 4th, the Americana Combined Shows got a lot of local news coverage here at Idaho Falls (Ida.) when they reported a lion cub was missing. The animal, named "Dmahabo," it was reported, had been chained to the rear of a truck and when circus people went to feed it, the cub had disappeared.

Someone, they said, had removed it from the collar or the animal slipped out and ran away. About 24 hours later the baby lion was found in another circus truck unharmed.

The cub was 2 months old and is an offspring of Elsa, the famed TV star of "Born Free."

.... Robert Morton



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ADVERTISING RATES: Minimum ad; \$5.00 Page; \$10.00 for Half Page; \$20.00 for a full page.

Expansion Planned

Circus World Park, in Florida, closed its doors on Sunday, Oct. 26th for a five month, \$3 million renovation and expansion program. The move, according to park officials, is an outgrowth of the tourist boom in Central Florida, which has produced record crowds for Disney World and Sea World parks.

Circus World opened in Feb. 1974 and is owned by Ringling Barnum, which is a subsidiary of the Mattel Corp. The California based Mattel Corp. has repeatedly announced the circus and park were for sale and that they would no longer provide any funds for either organization. However, it is now reported that they are providing the money for the expansion project.

Final details of the expansion program have not yet been worked out, but a number of new shows and attractions, all with a circus theme are planned. The design and planning work is being handled by Randell Duell Assoc., of Santa Monica, Calif.

Earth moving and installation of utility and sewer lines and other construction work would be a hazard to the public, says manager Michael Downs, and so the park is shut-down. "We plan to have it open again before Easter."

According to Downs the "goal is to push Circus World into the forefront of American entertainment attractions and to present to the public one of the finest examples of quality and exciting entertainment to be seen in this country."

Downs said they plan to present a bold new format and top-flight entertainment. "What we are doing is a departure from any

PEOPLE

The CARRILLO BROS, high wire act, were featured on Howard Cosell's TV show on Nov. 8th, direct from an RBBB performance

FOR SALE

the book

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other form of entertainment," he said. "Circus World will be a circus-themed attraction that will touch you with nostalgia yet literally sweep you into the entertainment of the future."

CIRCUS SENTINEL

. . . . by BILLY BARTON

RON MORRIS' Biography of KARL WALLENDEN hits the stalls for Xmas. Their new baby is expected in May....Wedding Bells for ANITA AMANDI and ROGER ZOPPE.....TORREANIS had a boy.....HERNANDEZ TROUPE debuting new riding act.....HAROLD KATZU, Hanneford groom, badly mauled by one of the tigers.....Producer GEORGE HUBLER preparing biog on JAKE MILLS - the circus world's SAM GOLDWYN.

Bandleader CHARLES SCHLAR-BAUM and the Musical MAAS Family to NED TOTH's magic opus..... EASTWOOD Family to Holiday Hippodrome in Feb.....ANDERSON's White Horse Troupe to SAM POLACK next Spring.....PAT ANTHONY to Kaye Continental.....SIR VICTOR JULIAN re-repeats Cleveland..... Amandis, Kirby's Chimps, Mlle. Mimi and Suesz animals on recent Hubler date in Ohio.....WINN TROUPE spot-dating Polack..... Novelty stand at Rochester displaying Mills Bros. Circus pendants - now a collector's item.

Circus Vargas season to run 56 weeks. Okay, so there's only 52 weeks in a year - somehow CLIFF has made it work.....G-M Circus opens East in March, then heads West - a switch for Kellner..... In addition to winning Medinah Temple bid, PAUL KAYE returns to Denver while SUESZ takes the Utah spots (At the next Int'l Chess Tournament I suggest inviting the CPA!)..... HOXIE plays the parking lot of the Hotel Diplomat at Miami Bch for 3 days in December.

We hope those acts who had

contracts this season and then failed to show, causing some producers to lose dates, develop better pro ethics for '76. Barring an emergency or act of God there is no excuse for this practice.

For Trivia Buffs: At a party on Polack the inimitable MAE WEST exclaimed to Mrs. Ashton (famed risley act), "Just think, my dear, you had so many children! and ALL of them BOYS!" Circus minded Mae rode an elephant, entered a den of lions in an early film, was a good friend of the late Mabel Stark, the now retired May Wirth, used the Barton Family Circus billposters to bill her play SEX in '27, and worked with countless circus acts in Vaude.

AMANDIS teeterboarders to split in May - finis to another great troupe. So few left it's a shame! Applause, please, for JIM HARSHMAN and the Emmett Kelly CFA Tent of Hagerstown, Md. Did you know these folks sponsor Beatty-Cole each season to SRO results?

Presto! 5 Rings of Magic
(Continued on Page 15)

ACROBATS OF TAIWAN

The Chinese Acrobats of Taiwan presented their two hour plus performance at Michigan State University on Nov. 5th and it is a show that has to be seen to be believed.

The company, with live music, is now making their initial tour of the U.S.

Because acrobatics is an ancient and integral part of the Chinese culture, based on a desire for man to find perfect harmony between mind and body and achieve perfection, this particular troupe is leaving au-

diences delighted with their show, marveling at their feats and charmed by their grace and precision.

The performance consists of Chinese acrobatics in all its variety, from the superhuman act such as levitation, demonstration of Kung-fu methods to charming ribbon dances, sensational tumbling, juggling, aerial and balancing routines, plus feats on bicycles, chairs and tables.

All of this in an elegant setting with colorful and dazzling costumes. George DaDeppo

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Death Penalty Sought

Assistant District Attorney Tom Beery says the state will demand the death penalty for Dennis Wright, who is charged with the murder of two people. The statement was made before Judge J. R. Amania, of the 92nd District Court (Texas) and the trial was scheduled to start today (Nov. 17).

The 32 year old Wright, of Illinois, has been charged with the killing of Emma K. Duke (60) and Janis R. Ratcliff (15) during a burglary at Donna, Texas, on Sept. 7th. He will be represented by a court appointed attorney.

(See The Circus Report for October 6, 1975)

SAWDUST TRAIL

McDonald's hamburgers are negotiating for the use of a circus to promote their business -- details soon.

Still in the negotiating stage are plans for the CFA Convention circus, which will be in Texas over June 9-12. Dr. Wm. H. Hooper is handling the event and reports the convention will be dedicated to the late George W. Christy.

Carson & Barnes blew their Oct. 17th date at Ponchatoula, La., because of a bad lot and jumped right into New Orleans and found another bad lot. It was the 7th show in N.O. this year and they were followed by Beatty-Cole a week later. Both shows reported business was off.

Business was off for Fisher Bros. and Franzen Bros. as they got into areas played by a small Texas based show that is really burning up the territory.

B. K. Silverlake says the Brownie Silverlakes were in a house trailer at the back of the house Emma Duke lived in. They heard the shots and their son, Joe, rushed to see what was going on - missed the killer by seconds or he might have been the third victim.

Do Do, the Clown, will work the grand opening of the newly remodeled "Downtown Monroe La. Main Street."

The new Ringling Museum of the Circus building, in Sarasota (Fla.) is currently scheduled for completion late this winter. The building, whose exterior is designed like a 19th Century Parisian circus building, will be used to display the museum's collection of old wagons.

Mel Silverlake has sold his small elephant to John Frazier for his Canadian Royal Bros Circus.

..... M. L. Dupont

Season Was All OK

This year's tour provided us with "excellent business," says Dr. Charles Boas, of Circus Kirk. The show opened on May 26th at Norfolk, Va., then headed north into New England, where it received extensive TV coverage from a Boston station.

A circus first was established when Circus Kirk boarded a ship for an engagement on Nantucket Island, being the first circus to play there. An engagement at Martha's Vineyard resulted in four steamer voyages for the circus and its crew.

Miscellaneous

Members of the Bette Leonard CFA Tent attended the Clyde Bros. Circus as a group last month

The Mattel Corp. has announced an out-of-court settlement of the various suits filed against the firm regarding its financial statements prior to their purchase of the RBBB Circus.

The Dusit Zoo at Bangkok was covered with some 6 to 8 in. of water on Nov. 9th, when the local river overflowed

By mid-July the circus was in New Hampshire, then moved in to Maine and headed south to Pennsylvania, for the closing date at New Berlin on Labor Day to good business.

Shortly after the matinee was over at Oxford (Me.) the big top was knocked down by a sudden gust of wind. No one was inside the tent and the only injuries were minor ones suffered by two circus people who were sitting on a partially lowered sidewall. As a result the show's evening performance went on without the top, and by the next day everything was back to normal.

The circus traveled on 18 units, several of which were new semis, including the concession trailer. New this year was the Petting Zoo, a popular feature on the midway. The side show used 10 banners and for the first time Circus Kirk featured an elephant -- 4 year old Lisa.

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New Show Bows

A new show, called Circus Kronterg, made its debut on the island of Puerto Rico in September and has been playing to good business at each stand. The circus currently plays covered basketball courts, which are like a small arena, with seating for 3,000 to 5,000 people.

If the remainder of the year continues to provide good returns a big top will be purchased. Also planned is a 1976 tour of all islands in the Caribbean area.

Featured in the circus is show owner Josip Marcan with his big group of male African lions. Marcan is from Yugoslavia and has toured Europe, Russia and

the United States. He spent two years acquiring and developing his act of ten males - the largest group of lions working in a single arena.

The big arena is made of aluminum, providing strength, yet offering ease in handling. Each lion is housed in a special cage wagon that provides for the safety, comfort and cleanliness of the animals.

Other features of the circus performance include a girl on a single trapeze, a juggling ladder act, a two girl aerial cradle number, several clowns, and a Colombian Folk Dance group with the "Cumbria" done in black light. The program also has a flying act and juggling troupe.

PEOPLE

BEA and ARTHUR STONE, CFAs spent the summer months clowning with the Dailey Bros. Circus.

JOE LEMKE blew a clutch in his truck enroute from Las Vegas to his home in Texas.

MARK ANTHONY, clown, will be in RBBB's Clown Alley again for the 1976 tour.

HARRY RAWLS resigned from his post as manager of the King Bros. Circus.

The WAL-TIMS recently worked dates in Fresno and the Los Angeles (Calif.) areas.

THE NERVELESS NOCKS have reportedly joined The Peter Pan Show,

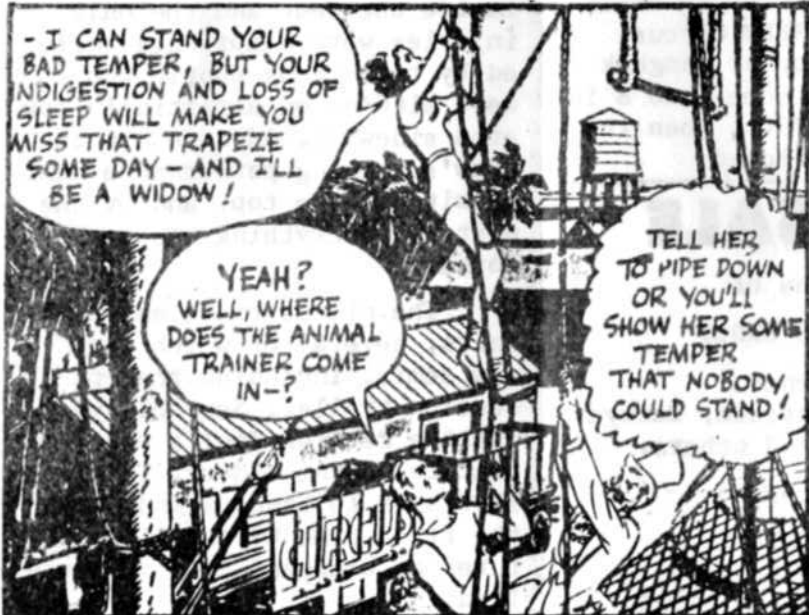
SHOW CLICKING

The Voorheis Bros. Circus played Schoolcraft, Mich., on Oct. 25th and had enthusiastic crowds. The performance is a good one, put together and managed by Col. Bill Voorheis.

The program featured:-

The Millers - trampoline
 Rolandos - juggling
 Barries - comedy trapeze
 Alberto Zoppe
 The Millers - gorilla act
 -- Intermission --
 Marcelli - tight wire
 Steve and Norman - cradle
 Zoppe's Riding Academy
 Gary Brunke - African lions (6)


..... Kaye Scheiman



- I CAN STAND YOUR
BAD TEMPER, BUT YOUR
INDIGESTION AND LOSS OF
SLEEP WILL MAKE YOU
MISS THAT TRAPEZE
SOME DAY - AND I'LL
BE A WIDOW!

YEAH?
WELL, WHERE
DOES THE ANIMAL
TRAINER COME
IN-?

TELL HER
TO PIPE DOWN
OR YOU'LL
SHOW HER SOME
TEMPER
THAT NOBODY
COULD STAND!



- AN ANIMAL
TRAINER NEEDS
STEADY NERVES, TOO!
- ONCE HE GOT
NERVOUS AND
JITTERY, AND
LOST CONTROL OF
HIS LIONS -!

YEAH!
- BUT HE GOT
OUT ALIVE - WHICH
PROVES THAT LIONS
WON'T EAT
HAM!

-THE DOCTOR THAT
DRESSED HIS TORN
ARM TOLD HIM HE HAD
COFFEE-NERVES -
MADE HIM CUT OUT
COFFEE AND SWITCH
TO POSTUM!

THAT'S
A LOT OF
BUNK!

-AND NOW
I SUPPOSE A
LION WOULDN'T
BITE HIM EVEN
IF HE BIT
FIRST!!

(Continued Next Week)

ROUTES

- American Freedom Train
Nov. 18-21 Eugene, Oregon
- Chinese Acrobats of Taiwan
Nov. 17 Omaha, Nebr
- Paul Eagles Luncheon Club
Nov. 17 Los Angeles, Calif
-- Birthday Celebration --
- Globetrotters
Nov. 17 Toledo, Ohio
- Ice Capades
Nov. 18-23 Oakland, Calif.
- Kramien's Magic-Capades
Nov. 17 Bend, Oregon
19 Ashland
- Longhorn Rodeo
Nov. 20-23 Greenville, S.C.
- Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show
Nov. 19 Saginaw, Mich.

Show Ok

The program as presented by the Hubert Castle Circus for the Ziyara Shrine Temple, at Utica, N.Y. (Oct. 22-25) featured:

- Joe Hartman - wild animals
The Clowns
Miss Esmeralda, Janet, Evita and Irma and Oscar - aerialists
Christopher James - tight wire
Herman & Petunia - Roman riding
Dale Harney - illusions
Joanne & Toma - trained animals
Miss Debbie - camels and llamas
Irene, Togo & Co. - gorilla act
The Macias - equilibrists
The Hermans - perch act
The Zavattas - ladder balancing
The Clowns
Bounding Jeffreys and The Frediani Troupe - trampoline
The Esquedas - acro/cycles
Pinson's elephants
-- Intermission --
The Flying Valentines
Wilson's Pets - dog revue
The Ronaldos - rolling globes
Tony Fossett - bounding rope
The Alejandros - slack wire
The Lenz Chimps
Miss Barbara, Loni and Lilian - foot juggling
Roger Zoppe - Arabian riders
Aerial Youngs, Tiba & Eva and Aerial Teds - aerialists
Capt. Eddie Ventura - daring car number

..... Allan Stopyra

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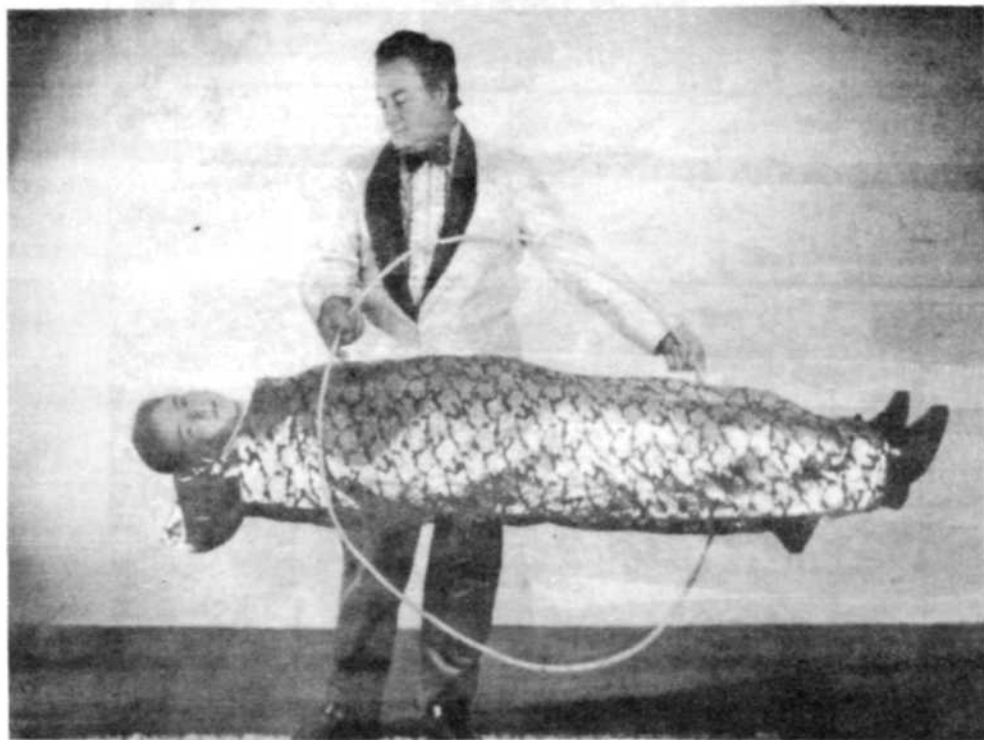
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Oakland Tribune Thurs., Nov. 6, 1975



Those Who Mourn

A circus worker buries his head in his arms while two elephants linger over the body of third elephant who was killed in an accident yesterday near Hosford, Fla. The accident occurred when the driver of a Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. circus van apparently fell asleep and the tractor-trailer slammed into a bridge, overturned and caught fire. Some of the other five elephants trapped in the trailer were injured.

Opinion: Book Review

.....Billy Barton

MUD SHOW by Fred Powledge. Published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich
374 pages - 74 photos - \$12.95

Fasten your seat belts, fellow troupers, we're in for a bumper crop of books and movies about the circus, the most current being **MUD SHOW** - a "travelogue" taking us from winter quarters back to winter quarters during the 1974 tour of Hoxie Bros. Circus.

If the seamy side of life under canvas is your dish, you'll get a belly-full from this one. If it turns into a belly-ache, don't say I didn't warn you.

There are moments of genuine insight and humor in **MUD SHOW**; unfortunately most of it is superficial and the end result does not warrant much applause. Author Powledge concerns himself mainly with the toilet habits, opinions, foibles and follies of as motley an assortment of winos, derelicts, and drifters as one could hope to meet.

But, we also learn that Hoxie Tucker's mood can be determined by the shape of his hat. Brim up, happy; brim down, mad; and that John Hall believes in Reincarnation, that Phil Chandler feels possessed by the Devil (who doesn't?), that Bert Pettus in his sixties is not as tough as he was in his twenties (who is?), and that one can live and die in the circus and nobody cares. Sic: the clown who is found dead in his camper three days after the show has left town.

The after-impression of **MUD SHOW** leads one to speculate: Is our profession THAT tawdry, our lives THAT depressing? Are we irresponsible children, bereft of discipline, unmindful of the world around us? Thirteen visits by the author to the Hoxie show would seem to indicate this.

On the other hand, much of what Mr. Powledge describes is true. We in the industry already possess such knowledge so can he be writing for us? The Big Question is ... will John Q. Public really care? I hope not. God knows the circus image is tarnished enough.

The best that can be said for **MUD SHOW** is Stan Zagorski's imaginative book jacket. Maybe he should have written the book.

PEOPLE

DANNY ASHLEY (Wobbles, the Clown) recently left the Americana Combined Shows and returned to his home in California.

ALBERTO ZOPPE and family spent three months this summer at the Montreal Expo 67 Park.

ROUTES

Beatty-Cole Circus

- Nov. 18 Ft. Meyers, Fla.
 19 Port Charlotte
 20 Brandenton
 21 Clearwater
 22-23 Tampa

Circus Vargas

- Nov. 18 Merced, Calif.
 20-26 Sacramento

Hanneford Family Circus

- Nov. 18 Hammond, Iowa
 20-21 Troy, Ala.
 23 Enterprise

Int'l All Star Circus

- Nov. 18 Monroe, La
 19 Shreveport
 20 Texarkana, Tex.
 22 Dallas
 23 Fort Worth

Lions Club Circus

- Nov. 22 Wilson Burro, Pa.

PAL Circus

- Nov. 22-23 San Francisco, Cal.

Polack Bros. Circus

- Nov. 21-23 Springfield, Ill.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

- Nov. 19-23 Springfield, Mass.

Royal Hanneford Circus

- Nov. 21 Lakeland, Fla.
 22-23 Miami
 -- End of Season --

Soviet Circus

- Nov. 18-23 Birmingham, Ala.

John Strong Circus

- Nov. 17-21 San Pedro, Calif.
 22-23 Simi
 -- End of Season --

Well Received

The big top date of the year, in attendance and finance, was attained when Big John Strong agreed to do a favor for his friend, Dr. George W. T. Boyd, and bring his circus to Lancaster (Cal.) for a day, to help raise funds for "Doc" who is Lancaster's mayor, and is now running for re-election.

Dr. Boyd, who served with major circuses during the '30s, was backed by the Lancaster V.F. W. Post, who, with the good work of the circus' agent Bill Birchfield, resulted in two packed houses, and a top season record for the show.

An agreement has been made between the parties for a return engagement when the tented unit of the circus starts its 1976 summer tour.

In Memoriam

W. REED BROWNING, Sr. (77) father of circus band leader and drummer Bill (Boom Boom) Browning, died Oct. 19th at Waco, Texas. He was a native of Lexington, Ky., but had lived in Waco for some 30 years. Survivors include his widow, Ennis; son Bill and a sister.

Wallace & Rogers Circus

- Nov. 22 Chino, Calif.

INVESTIGATION (Continued)

there had been no attempt to convince people the promotion was for charitable purposes.

The OPPA circus has been the center of controversy for a long time, with opponents charging the circus "bilks the public under the guise of charity." Councilman Fletcher has continually fought against the circus, saying they harassed the public into buying tickets. He also demanded that the books and record information of the promotion be opened for public inspection.

The problem came to a head in September when police arrested Charles E. Sampsil, who had been charged with Grand Theft. He reportedly left the state after posting a \$100 bond, and police said they were tipped off that he was coming back into the state.

At the time of his arrest he was driving a bronze Cadillac registered to an Ezil Swarn, of Oakland, Calif., the man who had run the circus promotion. Police said they found a box of records in the car, including phone bill and other items having to do with the circus promotion.

Later Swarn was arrested and charged with writing a check on an account with insufficient funds and for forgery connected with a variety show he was promoting in Maumee. Officials from

CIRCUS SENTINEL (Continued)

skedded for Detroit; ditto Planet of the Apes - by special arrangement. RAMOS TROUPE set. FLYING MEDALIONS out - due to a booking mixup....LEO MASCITTO heading band....IRIS KEPPO designing wardrobe for the "Salute to Hollywood" web number.

THE PRICE IS RIGHT: Tommy Hanneford ticketed 50 smackers for driving on the grass at an Eastern College. Was there a discount for just walking, Tommy?

See you down the road, luvs...

Toledo have also joined the investigation, charging that Swarn operated a phone room from their city. They report an initial investigation has failed to turn up any application for a license for a promotional operation.

The OPPA has consistently denied that any wrong doings have taken place and said its books should not be subject to the whims of a single Councilman. They report the circus made just over \$34,000 and that the OPPA had been guaranteed a minimum profit of \$4,000.

Under terms of the agreement with the circus promotion staff the police union pays for postage, rental of equipment, phone costs and general overhead expenses. The promoter pays all salaries to canvassers, and his own salary from the ticket sales.