



5th Year

October 18, 1976

Number 42

# Aerialist Killed In Crash

Two popular circus people died in a plane crash at Las Vegas on Sept. 24th. The accident occurred about 1 p.m. as Ron Lemus and Mike McCardell were doing a bit of stunt flying, when suddenly their plane went into a nose-dive and plunged into the ground. Both men were killed instantly.

Ron, who was an excellent stunt flyer was at the controls. He was the husband of Terry Cavaretta and catcher for the Flying Terrells, a trapeze act that was featured at Circus Circus in Las Vegas.

The act included: Ron, Terry, Judi McCardell, (Terry's sister and wife of Mike), and Alicia Farfan.

Late this month the act was to have appeared in a Royal Command Performance for the Queen of England.

## Fair Show

The free show for the Labor Day Fair, at Suring, Wisc., was produced by Baker & Ray Talent Promotions and featured:

Checkers and Patches, clown warm-up; The La Rays puppeteers; Miss Mary, contortion; The De Moulins, aerial cradle; Captain Jasper, magic; Checkers and Patches, dogs;

The crew included: Jack De Moulin, property supt., and Rose Baker, announcer.

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## Miscellaneous

The Robert Dover CFA Tent held a dinner-meeting on Oct. 9th at Camp Hill, Pa. CFA President Howard Coleman and Robert Dover were on hand, along with guest speaker Hoxie Tucker.

The Lincoln Park Zoo (Chicago) has filed for a permit to import a young female elephant from Ceylon. They plan to use her for breeding purposes.

The last World of Mirth wagon is displayed at the Cornett Restaurant just east of Columbia, S.C. on Route 378. Two other show wagons are on a trash heap in back of the restaurant.

The Page-Cavanaugh Circus played to packed houses at every performance for its Newport News, Va., stand on Sept. 29-30.

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## Italian Show

While visiting relatives in Rome this summer I was fortunate in being able to attend a performance of the Circus Jumbo, which was appearing in nearby Ostia.

The show was presented in a round tent that seats some 1200 to 1500 people. They had one ring, with four spotlights, each manned by an electrician. The concessions were much the same as are sold in this country, except they also rent out pillows, which are pretty good when you figure the seats are all wooden planks.

Their program featured: Horse act (8) all beautiful animals; Elephants (5) good looking animals with colored lights being used; The Oders, Yugoslavian aerialists; Yuma Togli an Italian sword balancer; Sinoko, Czech

an Italian sword balancer; Sinoko, Czech acrobats; Duo Tarvarich, Russian aerialists; Samson & Dalia, Italian strongman (bent metal bars, drove nails into wood with his hand and won a tug of war against 12 people; The Unrideable Mule, 3 people tried to ride the animal and failed, then a fourth came in for a surprise ending; The Grand Parade, including floats; Thierry Franci, tigers (4) and lions (4); Mr. Allen, escape artist; clowns; Ranz Boz, a very good juggler; Contortion act with 2 people; Spanish dancers, with excellent lighting and music; Two men showing acrobatic feats of strength; Farewell, with all performers entering the ring to greet the audience.

... Eugene Mascioli

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## Circus Day

Some 300 people interested in the circus are being invited to participate in a "Day At The Circus" at the Dallas (Texas) Fair on Oct. 23rd. Displays of models, posters and such are also planned.

The "Circus Day" event is being co-sponsored by the Ed Millette CFA Tent, the Fair and the Pepsi Cola Circus, produced by Gil Grey. The circus will be presented under a new big top and will be featuring a Siberian tiger act. Among those planning to attend the big event are Howard Coleman, CFA President, and his wife Edith.

Those interested are urged to contact Dr. William Hooper, 500 Kathy Drive, Mesquite, Texas

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## Show Notes

Virginia CFA member W. H. Foster spent a "dream week" traveling with the Hoxie Br. Circus last month.

All Maryland dates, he writes, were sponsored and Bel Air (Sept. 26) was truly a real "straw House" day. The show tears down at night but moves in the early morning, planning a daybreak arrival in the new town.

Two of the elephants gained their freedom at Bel Air, says Foster, but were finally located by local police. Bobby, Leo and Ted finally brought them back to the lot.

John Lewis, whose own show closed early in the season is back with Hoxie Bros. serving as superintendent. David Mobb, a former RB BB man has joined Hoxie Bros. to handle promotions and work with the shopping centers.

Recent visitors included Col. E. B. Smith, Jr. (retired), Herbie Weber and Billy Barton.

## Miscellaneous

Ringling-Barnum's Circus World Park has announced special admission prices will be in effect for Senior Citizens for Nov. 1-21.

Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo has two elephants - Bamboo, 8 yrs old (Indian) and Watoto, 7 yrs old (African).

**WANT** information on the location of the the G-M lion act which made shows in Peru and was last seen in La Paz.

Would also like to hear from acts that made the Peru dates regarding their treatment, pay, if any, and other pertinent data.

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# BILLY BARTON . . .

THE PUBLIC VIEWS the circus performer as one-dimensional. It would boggle their minds to discover the infinite variety of occupations at which he or she is adept, over and above respective performing skills. Some, armed with PhDs, a Masters in this, a degree in that; while others, self-taught, step into these occupations often during their performing years and full-time once they've wearied of the Gypsy life. The Lure of the Circus calls to each of us from the Horn of a Mythical Pan whose face is the white painted mask of a clown and whose music we follow by choice.

DAVID ZOPPE writes that the black Celebese Ape they are featuring in the Rhesus Monkey revue is a sensation with audiences everywhere. In the event you know little about simians, the Celebese is a very rare creature. The troupe, with their package of acts including Susan's Afghans, Princess Sonia, ladder balancing and the above mentioned monks, jumped into Canada and back to New England for a series of fair dates following their Crescent Park closing on Labor Day. "Rain followed us everywhere!" David told me. This fall will find the family playing dates for GEORGE HUBLER'

Didyaknow that ARTHUR GROTEFENT had a major hand in helping to build the famous LOU JACOBS tiny clown car?.....A promoter for a medium sized tenter (now closed) got an overdose of TV publicity in the East when he found himself jailed as a "receiver of stolen goods" with bail set at a mere ten grand! Seems, a group of teenagers broke into a motel-restaurant late one night, stole food and booze, and then proceeded to picnic on the motel lawn with the promoter as their "mascot." The "Most Unhappy Fella" has since been sprung.

GUESSING GAMES: What circus hired an unusual femme novelty act who was fired before the week was out when it was discovered "she" was a man in drag? I'll never tell - except to my most intimate friends or after a bribe of two Martinis!

JIM SWAFFORD mailed me clippings involving the late Brenda Jones Cuttin's tragic accident. It now seems certain our beloved Brenda had a heart seizure. I've been told that Brenda's body was shipped back to England for burial following services in Sarasota.

The G-M elephants were sold to the Ringling show and are now at Circus World. It is my understanding that not all the G-M equipment is stored at the Ascot Speedway in Akron - the light plant and office semi were moved to California.....Orange (Cal.) will now be the home base of two shows: Gatti-Charles and EARL TEGGE's TNT & Royal Olympic, which will make its headquarters there.....A veteran elephant handler was badly mauled by an outraged elephant at the Central Park ZOO (NYC) He is in fair condition.

Heard that New England officials gave CHARLES GERMAINE a hard time over his Big Top at a Connecticut stand so he put the show on outside, next to it.....Russian aerial beauty MARINA RADULESCU is now living and working in the New Jersey area and adjusting to private life.

TED and LISA STEWART, who had been on G-M, then went to play fairs, returned to the show in Omaha in late Sept., to find NO show. They had not been informed of the show's change in plans even though two phone numbers had been left. As a result they drove from North Carolina to Omaha and are they upset? A little!

JOHNNY HERRIOTT tells me he had the "easiest" season he has ever had.....Spies tell me that CIRCUS BARGAS (seen in Mexico across from El Paso) is really CIRCO UNION - Guess they heard Circus Vargas was coming to Mexico and wanted to beat the competition. They don't have to worry about that now, CV is NOT coming!

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS reported that theme parks grossed the most money and logged the heftiest attendance in the history of American Amusement Parks. GEORGE HUBLER says theme parks are definitely cutting into the fairs and circuses during the summer months.....LU ANN JACOBS has returned to Florida to build new aerial rigging...Midget Clown JUNE DEWSBURY is upset over the IRS who won't allow her road expenses even though she maintains a residence in New Jersey the year round. She writes that if she doesn't win the battle she'll have to go off the road.

(Continued on Page 10)

## Pot-Pourri

The Michelangelo Paint Company (Mike Naughton, Michael Wade and P. J. Bissonette) recently worked some Royal Hanneford dates

Phil and Linda Chandler will soon wind up the season on Hoxie Bros. Circus then jump over to George Hubler's winter dates.

Anita Keppo is no longer trouping with the Royal Hanneford Circus.

Clown dwarf June Dewsbury was the Guest of Honor at the Felix Adler Tent (CFA) meeting in September.

## Stage Show

"The Magic Show" an independent promotion drew an almost full house at the Oakland (Calif.) Auditorium Theatre on Oct. 9th. The show was sponsored by the Jaycee's for one performance at 3 p.m.

Featured on the program were: Betty Wendany, MC; Toby Twist, clown juggler and stilt walker; Sam Skinner, fire eater and bed of nails, and Les Arnold & Co., magic and illusions.

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## New Book

Book stores everywhere are expected to have a supply of a brand new circus book in time for their holiday sales campaign. Published by Brooke House, Inc., the book is titled "The World of Clowns."

Author George Bishop worked closely with Bobby Kaye to produce this big volume volume which covers clowns from Dan Rice to our present day funsters. The book includes 150 photos, with 40 color plates and sells for \$20.00.

## Oct. Dates

Acts working a Southern California "Pumpkin Festival" each weekend of October include:

Fay Snyder, horses and Critter Act; Richard, juggler and unsupported ladder; Great Valentino, high wire, plus clowns, Ken Miller and Harold Hall.



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## News Report

He made a mistake, he admitted it, and he'll never be pulled into such a project again. "From now on," says Sandy Dobritch, son of the late, famed circus producer, Al; "the money has got to be there before I even make a move."

Tampa, the last "promoted date for the Super Circus tour did not go well. The performance was great but there was no money for the acts. Sandy's only alternative was to pressure the sponsors with an ultimatum: "No money, no show." The acts stood in support and he managed to get them half their salaries.

Following Tampa, Vincent Pace (of Vynn & Wynn, musicians) convinced Sandy to take a chance on the Union City (NJ) date played "cold" in late September. Sandy and Vincent inexperienced, but making up for that deficiency with enthusiasm coordinated the date successfully. "We had an unusual agreement with the performers. The first money that came in went directly to them." Enough money was made to pay all the performers in full. "Boy! What a great feeling!" remarks Sandy. "I would like to add that all

## YEARS AGO

The Walter L. Main Circus of 1926 was traveling on a train of 14 cars, carrying 42 baggage horses, 14 ponies, 3 donkeys, 6 elephants, 3 camels, 4 zebras, a llama and 6 animal cages. The show used 12 tents, and had 12 banners for its big side show and 3 for the No. 2 side show features.

the acts with Super Circus really stuck together and made the thing work. It was the promoters who messed things up."

Sandy Dobritch is back at his Las Vegas headquarters where, he reports, "the phone has been ringing with more business than ever. I was so afraid the Super Circus ordeal would give me a black eye in Las Vegas." Thus far, Sandy has sold three acts into major revues, is negotiating for others, and is busy with TV guest shots for still more.

He has also intimated that in 1977 it might be possible the Dobritch Circus will be back in action on some indoor and under canvas dates for Shrine and Police. "When and if it happens," Sandy says firmly, "You can bet they'll be bought and paid for - in advance!"

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## PEOPLE

**CHAPPIE FOX**, of RBBB, will be the guest speaker at the Emmett Kelly CFA Tent's annual banquet at Hagerstown, Md. on Nov. 6.

**JOE MICHEN** and "Westy" WESTERVELT have been busy visiting shows in the Penna., N w Jersey area.

**JACK RYAN**, for RBBB press man, has written and edited the last three editions of the Circus Vargas program books. He reports business at Magic Mountain was up 25% in

attendance and 45% in gross revenues.

**AL DAWLEY**, circus ringmaster, will work dates for the Fleckles Circus in 1977.

**MARVIN E. GIRARD**, author, rope spinner and juggler, will read some of his poetry at the Lansing Community College this spring.

### BILLY BARTON (Continued)

**CHUCKLES: BILLY RODGERS** was enroute to the post office when a "break 19" came over his CB for "Big Bird" (Billy) from "Sky Lab 2" (assistant Dan Busch) demanding the whereabouts of a comb so he could tidy up his appearance to set the props on stage. At this point a trucker interrupted, asking (his voice tinged with sarcasm) if they had bought CB's just to keep track of their combs!

See you down the road, luvv.

**JOHNNY HERRIOTT** and family are reportedly set to join RBBB's Red Unit for the 1977 season.

**BOBBY KAYE** has been re-admitted to the hospital for new tests and observations.

**FAY SNYDER** recently purchased a 33 in. high miniature stallion which will be added to her Critter Act.

**BILL BRICKLE** will have his Poodle Revue at the South Alabama Fair (Montgomery) on Oct. 18-23.



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## PEOPLE

JON FRIDAY, ringmaster, recently visited Hoxie Bros., Circus Vargas, Royal Hanneford, Holiday on Ice, Stebbing's Royal European Circus and the James E. Strates show.

GERALD SOULES has his poodle act with the special edition of "Holiday on Ice" that

will tour Mexico and Central America.

DOUG HENNING presented his "Illusion & Reality" lecture at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. on Oct. 6th.

ED MIGLEY is no longer with the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Show. He is currently associated with the Ralphi Miranda Productions.

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## HURRY!

## HURRY!

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# ROUTES

## BEATTY-COLE CIRCUS

- Oct. 18 Houmea, La.
- 19 Morgan City
- 20 New Iberia
- 21 Lafayette
- 22 Opelousas
- 23 Lake Charles
- 24 De Ridder

## CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS

- Oct. 18 Van Buren, Ark.
- 19 Russellville
- 20 Hot Springs
- 21 Conway
- 23 Loanoke

## KAYE CONT'L CIRCUS

- Oct. 21-24 Wichita, Kans.

## CIRCUS VARGAS

- to Oct 20 Petaluma, Calif.
- Oct 21-24 El Cerrito

## HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS

- Oct 18-19 Jacksonville, Fla.
- 20 Gainesville
- 21 South Daytona
- 22-24 Winter Park
- End of Season --

## KING BROS. CIRCUS

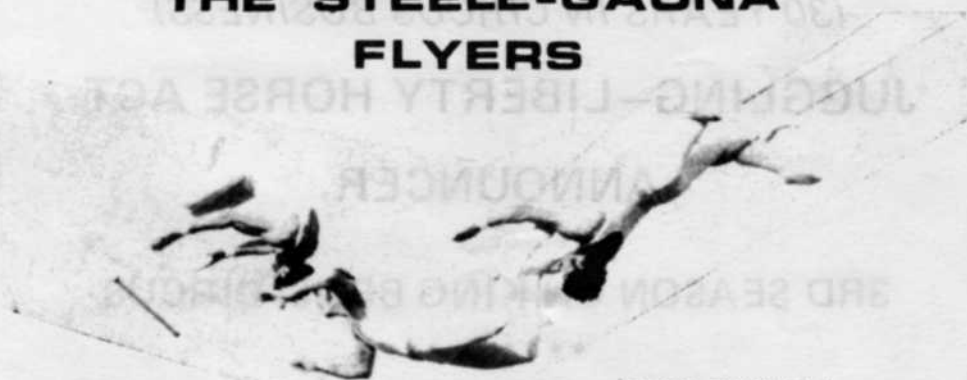
- Oct. 18 Stuttgart, Ark.
- 19 McGehee
- 20 Cleveland, Miss.
- 21 Clarksdale
- 22 Winona
- 23 Kosciusko
- 24 Belzoni

## POLACK BROS. CIRCUS

- Oct 23-24 Richmond, Va.

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# ROUTES

RINGLING-BARNUM - Blue Unit  
to Nov. 7 Chicago, Ill.

RINGLING-BARNUM - Red Unit  
Oct 20-Nov 1 Boston, Mass.

ROYAL HANNEFORD CIRCUS  
Oct 18-19 Huntsville, Ala.

SELLS & GRAY CIRCUS  
Oct. 18 Adel, Ga.  
19 Jasper, Fla.  
20 Starke  
21 Williston  
22 Dunnellon  
23 Inverness  
-- End of Season --

## SHRINE CIRCUS

Oct 19-24 San Antonio, Texas

## JOHN STRONG CIRCUS

Oct. 18 Porterville, Calif.  
19 Madera  
20 Hanford  
21 Lamont  
23 Redlands  
24 Yuciapa

## Carnival of Brazil

Oct 19-31 Philadelphia, Pa.

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit  
Oct 22-30 Mobile, Ala.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit  
Oct 22-30 Mobile, Ala.

James H. Drew Shows  
Oct 18-23 Dublin, Ga.

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## BIG JOHN STRONG

After an up-and-down season, the Big John Strong Circus returned to the west coast last month, where business immediately began to pick up. Except for two days, thus far, the show has had jammed-packed crowds for every performance and as a result several new records were achieved.

The show's tour will end in mid-November and almost immediately promotions will get underway for Big John's annual Christmas shows. This year four units will be on the road - three for Holloway Productions and one for the John Strong Productions.

The Eastern Unit will be managed by Bill Birchfield; the Pacific Northwest Unit will have Don Arthur as its manager and Betty Wendandy will handle the California unit. Big John will personally direct operations of the Mid-west Unit, which opens at Fort Worth (Texas) on Dec. 10th and closes at Santa Ana (Calif.) on Dec. 22nd.

Plans for next year include another tour into the eastern states and Canada, plus the ad-

## ROUTES

### Globetrotters

Oct. 21 Saginaw, Mich.

### Grand Nationals

Oct 22-31 San Francisco, Ca.

### Ken Griffin (Magic)

Oct. 21 Knoxville, Tenn.

23 Johnson City

### Prof. Miller & Co. (Magic)

Oct 18-24 Plymouth, Mass.

### Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show

Oct. 19 Nashville, Tenn.

21 Little Rock, Ark.

22-24 Pine Bluff



dition of some new acts. A brand new tent, is now being constructed by Leaf Tent Co., for the show's 1977 tour.

## MANY THANKS

To my friends for their cards, messages and phone calls during my recent illness and confinement to the Wilmington, Dela., Medical Center.

### A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO

Bob and Lucy Snowden, Wesley and Florine Oler, John and Tina Hansen and to My Partner, John Meyers, who carried on the act and presented the act during my illness.

(Without the above it couldn't have been done)

Thanks....

**Bill Brickle**

Brickle's Poodle Fantasy

# Congratulations

To Mr. CHARLES GERMAINE upon your recent triumphant return to the BIG TOP "BIG TIME" and Special Thanks for selecting me to be your Circus Ringmaster for your 1976 Fall Dates. It's truly been a pleasure for me.

My gratitude also extends to my great brother and sister circus artistes who worked with me for the success of every crowded performance. The roster includes: John and Herta Cuneo; Wade and Margaret Burke; Winnie McKay; Wally and Tim Bickmore (Wal-Tims); Herbie Weber and Maricela Sanchez Hernandez (Los Latinos); Chester Cable; Sergio, Mitzi, Raoul and Ava Ramos (Flying Ramos); Vincent A. Pace and Wendell H. Murrah (Vynn & Wynn) great organs and percussion duo; Don (Whizzer) Bridwell, producing clown, and the members of clown alley, and Walt Davis and his fast-moving crew from Florida Tent Rental for their cooperation. Even with all the work of erecting and dismantling a huge 150' x 300' striped blue and white Big Top with a small crew, Mr. Davis & Co. never refused me the manpower and use of his mechanical equipment when it was needed to transport the leased light plant from Gooding's Million Dollar Midways, Inc., from Nick Santamaria who is another great showman.

Looking forward to working with all of the above mentioned people again very soon.

.....Jon Friday

To Whom It May Concern: During the past 25 years I've announced and performed for some of the best-known showmen in the circus business including Hubert Castle, James M. Cole, William J. English, Don Francisco, Ward Hall, George A. Hamid, Sr. and Jr., George Hanneford, Jr., James Hetzer, Frank McClosky, Bob Snowden, Louis A. Stern, Wilson F. Storey (six full seasons '68-'75), Howard W. Suesz and Aut Swenson. I am proud to add the name of Charles Germaine to the above list.....

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P. S. Special thanks to George Hanneford, Jr., and Rex Billings for the wonderful 13 consecutive weeks at Storytown, U.S.A.

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## DEADLINE FOR HOLIDAY (DEC.) ISSUE IS NOV. 10

# AN EDITORIAL

As we continue to celebrate our nation's 200th birthday the need for a free press is more important than ever. Without it our nation would not have become the country it is today and the news would not be as varied and informative.

During the past five years you may have read a story that made you feel uncomfortable. You may not have agreed with us, you may have even read a statement that you felt was misleading or even untrue.

But generally, you have recognized that we must be allowed to print what we wish to. That is what the First Admendment to the Constitution is all about.

That Admendment guarantees a free press. It does not guarantee a fair press or a responsible press - only a free press.

There are newspapers that can be called dissidents, rable rousers and kooks, and, they have a right to be heard. The overwhelming majority, however, are competent and responsible.

The voices of reason, of responsibility and good judgement have prevailed - and will continue to prevail so long as the

press is free!

As the year progresses it will be well for all of us to remember that the free press discussion of public business is the prerequisite to liberty.

We must keep in mind that any limitation placed on the right of free expression of any person or group - no matter how repugnant their cause may be - is an infringement on the rights of all of us.

Freedom of speech and of the press is what has made us a free people!



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# ILD WEST COMING



COWBOYS  
INDIANS  
BUFFALOES

AA-AH AT AIN'  
NO WIL' BRONCO,  
HE HAS T' LICK  
HIM T' MAKE  
'IM GO.

YEH AN IF 'AT  
FELLER'S A GOOD  
RIDER, WHY  
AINT HE SITTIN'  
BACK WITH HIS  
ARMS FOLDED,  
HUH? TELL ME  
THAT!

IF HE'S A  
WIL' BRONCO,  
WHY AINT  
HE GOT  
STEAM COMIN'  
OUTA HIS  
NOSE. HUH,  
WHY AINT  
HE?

