



8th Year

February 19, 1979

Number 8

New Show Owners

Two Australian businessmen have formed a partnership and taken over control of the 102 year old Sole Bros. Circus. John Laws and John Singleton, an advertising executive, have been friends for a long time and recently became partners in Laws' long-running talk radio show.

The new show owners will pay the Perry family for promotional costs and losses and will give them a flat fee guarantee for each performance. However, all profits will go to the L & S Proprietary Ltd., the company set up to operate the circus.

During the holiday season the circus gave 40 performances in the Sydney area. Some \$285,000 was spent for promotion, plus an equal amount for upfront costs. Another \$114,000 was spent for television advertising, with support from the Grace Bros. department store chain.

Ticket prices at that time were set at \$3.42 and \$6.84, which Singleton says compares favorably with the Michael Edgley circus presentations. Edgley is reportedly working with Ringling-Barnum in planning its scheduled Australian tour in 1980.

Sole Bros. Circus was started in 1876 by William Perry and has been operated by the family since that time. Three years ago they opened an animal park called "Wild Australia".

Star Dies

One of America's favorite circus performers — Victor Julian — died early in the morning on Feb. 10th, at a hospital in Greenwood, S. C.

The night before he collapsed in the ring while presenting his dog act, a feature number with the Royal Hanneford Circus. He was rushed to a hospital, but doctors were unable to save him.

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Magicians

MAGICIANS UNDER CANVAS

by Mike O'Dowd

(The following was compiled by Mike O'Dowd and has been reprinted from the Dec. 1978 issue of M-U-M magazine. It does not represent a complete listing of magicians who have worked under tents)

Harry Willard	Scalzo
George Row	Dick Oslund
Tom Ogden	Wyman & Jack Baker
Troy Strait	Noel Lester
Gary Holveck	Bill Martin (Karlton)
Bob Stehpan	Otto Hornman
Jim Sommers	Frank Ducrot
Orson Welles	Laurie Ireland
Phil Chandler	Ed Reno
Jeff Larche	Dante
The Conklins	Horace Goldin
Al Flosso	Max Malini
Joe Scott	Harry Kellar
Roy Mayer	Emil Jarrow
V-Roy (Hampton)	Mickey MacDougall
MacDonald Birch	Augustus Rapp

Manipo Harris	2-10 Daniel
De Yip Lou	George Demott
Tommy Windsor	Dave Coleman
King Baile	Si Stebbins
Roba Collins	Wm. Hilliar
Loring Campbell	C. A. Frank
Al Baker	Dave Price
John Shirley	Harry Houdini
Fred Keating	Herman Suss
Ray Amy	Chuck Windley
Walt Hudson	Willie Krieger
Teddy Milligan	The Ushers
Ken Griffin & Roberta	Doc Irvine
Bob Fischer	The O'Dowds
Larry Pew	Karl Germain
Harry Thurston	Prof. Harry Somers
Vince Carmen	Everet Lawson
Jess Bisbee	

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$15.00 per year. Overseas subscription via surface mail is \$20.00 a year.

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SHOW DATES

Brickle's Wonderland Circus

Feb. 8 Orangeburg, S.C.
9 Lynchburg
10 Cordova
12 Timmonsville
13 Lamar
14 Manning
15 Kingstree
16 Greenville
17 Union

— End of Season —

Circus Vargas

Feb 21-25 Rolling Hills, Ca.

Cole All Star TV Circus

Feb. 19 Norwich, N.Y.
20 Morris
22 Sidney
23 Weedsport
24 Mexico
25 Central Square

Garden Bros. Circus

Feb 22-25 Reading, Pa.

Hubler International Circus

Feb 24-25 Elmira, Ohio

Wm. Kay Circus

Feb 23-25 Madison, Wsc.

Monte Carlo Circus

Feb 20-25 Providence, R.I.
27-28 Syracuse, N.Y.

Moscow Circus

to Mar. 4 San Juan, P.R.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

Feb 20-25 Raleigh, N.C.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

Feb 21-25 Hampton, Va.

Royal Hanneford Circus

Feb 22-25 Charleston, S.C.

Shrine Circus

Feb 23-25 Lubbock, Texas
18-26 Milwaukee, Wsc

--- OTHER DATES ---

Blackstone Magic Show

Feb 19-20 Davenport, Iowa
22 Aurora, Ill.
23-24 South Bend, Ind.
25 Peoria, Ill.

Vince Carmen's Magic Revue

Feb. 19 McAllen, Texas
20 Mercedes

Globetrotters

Feb. 26 Portland, Me.

Holiday On Ice - Int'l

Feb 21-25 Corpus Christi,
Texas

Holiday On Ice - Nat'l

Feb 21-25 Houston, Texas

Ice Capades - Cont'l

Feb 20-25 Portland, Me

Ice Capades - Int'l

Feb 20-28 Philadelphia, Pa.

Ice Capades - Western

Feb 20-25 Indianapolis, Ind.

Ice Follies

to Feb. 25 Boston, Mass.

Evel Knievel Thrill Show

Feb. 21 Orange, N.S.W. Aus.
23 Woolongong
24 Sydney

Kramien's Magicazam Show

Feb 23-24 Fairfield, Calif.

Loomis' Magic Capades

Feb. 19 Lubbock, Texas
22 Canyon
23 Tucumcari, N.M.
25 Las Vegas

Los Latinos - wire act

Feb 24-25 Elmira, Ohio

John MacKay - Clown

Feb 23-25 Madison, Wisc

Manzini, Escape Artist

Feb. 23 New Albany, Ind.

Sports Show

Feb 24-Mar 4 Philadelphia,
Pa.



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by M. L. DUPONT

Long established as a venue for the wealthy, Monte Carlo has in five short years, also established itself as the mecca of the Circus World during December.

The inspiration of Prince Ranier, of Monaco, the International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo has become the highlight of the circus year, the most important world-wide event concerned with this old established entertainment.

The TV broadcast could barely touch on the four evenings of outstanding acts and as reported by several who were in attendance and who later saw the television portion said an injustice was done to many of the acts that appeared there.

For example they stated that the trained bear act was worth the trip alone, but television didn't show some of the most interesting parts. The act of the Boichanovi was unique in that after they won a trophy at the Festival they flew to England where they took part in the Circus World Championships and again came away with first place.

Many of those CFA members who were in attendance were disappointed in that Lou Ann Jacob did not place.

AUDITIONS

and INTERVIEWS for dressage rider positions to be held Feb. 15-28, 1979, in Miami, Fla. Top pay and good benefits for dressage riders touring with the Royal Lipizzan Stallions throughout the United States and Canada.

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Interviews being held for two weeks to re-cast the 1979 show.

At the closing gala performance came the presentation of Prince Ranier's trophies and the special prizes. It was a glittering evening with a packed audience in dinner suits and evening dress, at which only the winners appeared.

A special tribute should be paid to the exceptional services of the ringmaster, Sergio. Nobody else could have possibly kept the show running so well as this young man, who with distinction and spirit introduced each act and filled in between numbers. During the Festival, Sergio was given a contract to act as the French speaking ringmaster for the Monte Carlo Festival Circus which the Ringling-Barnum Circus launches this month.

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813 - 921 - 5586

— NO COLLECT CALLS —

PEOPLE

KARL and SHEILA WINN, who are working a Sheraton Hotel date in Korea, expect to be heading back for the states early next month.

TED (Tibi) YOUNG and family have been visiting in Las Vegas and will leave next month to join the American Continental Circus for its '79 season.

AILEEN KAHANOVITZ, circus aerialist, whose husband is a doctor and also clowns, has been visiting friends on Circus Vargas during that show's engagements in the Los Angeles area.

SAILOR DOC RIGGS (D. H. Riggs, Sr.) has given an old handmade tattoo machine to the Tattoo Art Museum in San Francisco. It is the only one of its kind in the world.

JERRY WHITE is back in Florida where he is giving his side show truck a new paint job for the coming season.

BOB FORD, magician, was featured in a stage show offered the delegates attending the Jan. 18-20 meeting of the Texas Fair Association at Dallas.

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MAIL BAG

Let's set the record straight! The name of the act that is with Circus Vargas is called "Los Gauchos". It's a bolo-dancing act. These people come from Uruguay and Spain.

The "Los Argentines-gauchos," which is also an act I represent, is currently playing the Showboat Dinner Theatre in Pinellas Park, Florida. They are not with Circus Vargas, but the Los Gauchos are.

... Gilbert Miller

Miscellaneous

Gallery magazine for March 1979 has a one page story called "Circus" by David Black, which includes a picture of Karl Wallenda and Gunther Gebel-Williams.

The Happytime Circus opened its '79 season in the small town of Angwin (Calif.) which the night before had been visited by the Royal Lichenstein Circus. Royal played at the school auditorium and Happytime played just across the street at a market.

IN MEMORIAM

AL GROSS (61), top thrill show performer and innovator, died Feb. 1st, after a long bout with cancer. He is credited with creating many of the feats seen on thrill shows and he helped to make such shows more than just car crashing by introducing precision driving and other feats. He had worked for Jimmy Lynch, Joie Chitwood and Don Fleenor.

PEOPLE

MAJORIE and DAVID HACKETT report they did some "back yard" visiting at Ringling's Blue Unit in the Civic Center at Lakeland (Fla). They visited with BUCKLES WOODCOCK, HARRY HAMMOND (now with Beatty-Cole), PAPA FORNASARI (musical clown act, just back from Sarasota and the marriage of his oldest son to SASA ARMOR (he reports Reggie is walking without crutches). Another visitor at the circus was BETTE LEONARD, who flew to Sarasota for the nominations of a new Celebrity at the Circus Hall of Fame.

Marjorie reports, "it was fun seeing the huge metal globe that travels overland rather than by train. The globe is used by the Urias Troupe who ride cycles inside it. At this date the globe was used in the end ring because it was too large to push along the track.



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MAILBAG

One of your readers recently asked about the old chewing gum animated circuses. I assume he is referring to the "Beechnut" Circus. To the best of my knowledge there were 3 separate units, mounted on trucks and glass enclosed.

They were all dismantled and the parts were disposed of to people who had expressed an interest in these shows.

Walter G. Heist, Jr. _____

My display at the Bradford County (Fla) Library unearthed considerable local show history, including that Starke was the winter quarters for a Demerest tent of the 1900-1910 era. It was also learned that Sun Bros. had a wreck nearby and that George Jessel took a pot shot at a local M.D. because of the latter's attention to his wife.

Mac McDaniel, ride foreman on the old J. J. Jones railer, is always good for a laugh as he relates little known incidents way back when.

Eloise Wallace, who broke into burlesque at the old Shattuck legit theatre, in Hornell, N.Y., is a late comer to Starke and the local gals all admire and rave over her trunkful of exotic Columbia burley circuit wardrobe.

Phyllis and Jeff Stafford, of Kentucky, are recent arrivals to the area and still tote around their huge circus days scrap book.

Expected visitors to local ex-troupers are the Ron Bacon's of Belpre, Ohio, Smiley Corbin, of Barnesville, Ohio, and the LeRoy Jewels, of New Liskeerd, Ont., Canada.

The Fecteaus, old high wire performers, are now content to build half-size parade wagons. They can give a graphic story of the Fred Buchanan's Red Lighting incident. They and all performers were locked in their staterooms 'til the train reached the Hall farm in Missouri. Schiller paid off (about 105) with a regular cannon on his desk to bluff everyone. When it came time for the wild west people, their leader fired a 45 right over Schiller's head and put enough fear into the latter so that he paid the concert people in full.

They all say that old man Hall was a swell guy and fed them very well. At that time the Buck Jones wagons were still in fair shape, the lettering a silent reminder of a sad, sad show whose staffers got first count of the take, much to the dismay of honest Buck Jones. I can still recall the freshly painted Jones advance car hitched to our fast service cars, someplace in Illinois on the I.C.

Art "Doc" Miller

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In addition to the regular shows and attractions booked into Knott's Berry Farm for their Lincoln, and Washington Birthday Party Weekends (Feb. 9-12 and 16-19) the facility also featured:

The Psychedelic Cyclists (6 unicyclists/jugglers from the Redland Y Circus), Skiles & Henderson (comedy team), Deadeye Dick's One-Man-Band, Baby Tarra, (elephant owned and presented by Carol Cheney), Laserock (Laser spectacular), Laser Discomania (laser spectacular), The Lockers, Lee Fugal (musical comedy), Armando (magic/mime), David Forel (balloon sculpturing), Joey Jordan (comedy juggling/unicyclist/clown), John Summers (human robot), Moore's Mongrel Revue (Bobby Moore), Chan Ming Yu (Oriental magical mysteries), Hokum W. Jeebs & His Eccentric Musical Revue (from San Francisco) Stan Allen (comedy magic), Rene's Marionettes, Michael Roy Baldrige (speed juggler).



JACK and PATTI COOK will have their comedy car with the Garden Bros. Circus, Feb. 23 to June 3rd, then they join the Williams Bros. Circus in Canada.

THE FORNASARI Musical Clown act will play an engagement at Orlando, then Georgia, a Coronas production and then will join Garden Bros. Circus.

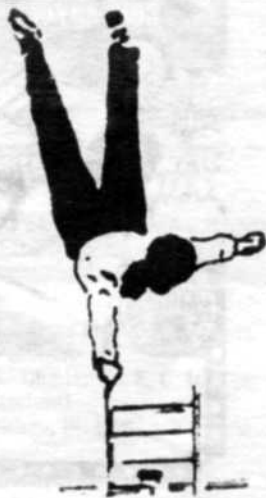
MILONGA CLINE has been down with the flu, but is now reportedly improving.

Also featured at the facility was the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus with Earl Tegge (ringmaster), Tim Tegge (clown/drums), Louise Tegge (organ), Wini MacKay (single trap), Chester Cable (foot juggling) and David Linden (one finger stand).

Several rock groups were also booked, with most of the acts being booked by Chuck Burnes of the Park's Special Events office.

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In Memoriam

HARRIETT PARNELL (58), of Gibsonton, Fla. died on Jan. 23rd of an apparent heart attack. Together with her husband Garland, they had trained monkeys that appeared at parks, fairs and shopping centers. Survivors include her husband Garland, a son, Garland G., mother, Nellie Bryant and two grandchildren. Final resting place was at Sunset Memory Gardens area of the Independent Showman's Association.

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Show Report

The 1979, 11 week run of veteran showman James M. Cole's All Star TV Circus, opened on Saturday, Jan. 20th at Shickshinny, Pa., followed by a three day stand at Williamsport, Pa. This is the show's 41st annual tour throughout Penna. and New York, and it also marks Jimmy Cole's 62nd anniversary in the entertainment field.

The 90 minute show (including a 10 minute intermission) opens with introduction of ringmaster Phil Chandler and features:

Billy Martin, rola bola/juggling; Miss Victoria, web; Miss Elizabeth, foot juggling; Paulette's Peerless Puppies; Bobbie-Jane Duo, juggling; Chandler & Co., magic/illusions; Oscar Macias, hand balancing/one finger stand; Mongo, Bongo & Co., trained and presented by Miss Vickie; Miss Linda Karl, single trapeze; the Lang Family Acro-brats, trampoline/tumbling; The Great Oscar, aerial cloud swing.

The show carries its own concessions (floss, popcorn, novelties) handled by David and Chris Rawls. The entire show travels on 6 pieces of rolling stock.

Miscellaneous

A performance of the FSU Circus for the Putnam County Association of Retarded Citizens (Florida) was cancelled last month due to poor ticket sales.

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SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

For the past several years you have read in my column that C. C. Day, former circus owner and associate of many circuses throughout the years, was the only member of the CFA to hold a membership number below 100. Cliff holds No. 99. Well, just recently, another charter member, Frank F. Littlefield, of Gloucester, Mass. was re-instated. He holds No. 74.

Friends of the Gibbs may have been wondering why they haven't seen Bobby and Rosa in the Mission Texas area this winter. It seems that Bobby and family have spent most of the winter in the Houston area. Last word we had from Bobby was that he would be doing one or two dates for Carden-Johnson, then will join Circus Genoa in Alabama for its March 17th opening date.

As of this writing there has been no word whether Manuel King will have his pit shows on the road this year. In '78 Manuel had a show on C&B No. 1, while he had a show on C&B No. 2, where his wife ran the cookhouse.

Reports out of Hugo indicate that Dorey Miller recently had an operation. We wish him a speedy recovery. — We are happy to report that M. Miller of the Houston area, who suffered a heart attack is making a speedy recovery.

Mel Silverlake's show played McAllen, and Bento (Texas) late last month. Gopher Davenport was a recent visitor on the show, but has returned to his winterquarters. Gopher has two new elephants which came from Oregon as we understand it.

Well, it has happened again. In a past column this writer reported that a husband and wife team had been hired as engagement directors in advance of a show. The info came from the show owner. Now I

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have been informed by the couple that they have made no such commitments to any show as yet. Once again I ask all who read this column "Please don't take statements made in this column as the final word - always contact the person or persons themselves if you are dealing with them and get the answer direct from them."

I try to keep this column as accurate as possible but sometimes show owners unintentionally hand me info that isn't correct. It has also come to this reporter's attention that Mel Silverlake's Circus, which I reported as Col. Silverlake's Real Wild West and Circus played Benito, Texas, Jan. 22 under the title of Jungle Wonders Circus. This was the ads that ran in local papers. I am at a loss to understand how the Jungle Wonders Circus can be in quarters outside of Houston at a fairground and also be in the valley playing dates under that name. I hope it isn't that they're trying to discredit this reporter by feeding him false information for publication.

This reporter has received a copy of the British publication "World Fair" which is much like our Amusement Business, but with more circus information. It carried a full page story on the Circus World Championships and the Monte Carlo Festival. The copy was sent me by Jim Forrest who keeps me informed about the European shows.

My thanks to the Enquirer Printing Co. for the year book and supply of clown posters that they offer. They have an excellent assortment to pick from and at reasonable prices. If you are a clown who needs posters to advertise your act Enquirer Printing is the place.

NOTICE

ATTENTION ALL CIRCUS AND ANIMAL OWNERS — William Joseph Capozzi — Social Security No. 131-32-2402 — left Royal Hanneford Circus at Roanoke, Va., on Jan. 29th, owing numerous debts and in his possession is a portable TV set that doesn't belong to him.

Be advised if this man seeks employment.

....Tommy Hanneford

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Tax Checks

Several shows have reported having problems with states who are in the process of making audits of the show's records for back payments for sales tax, state permits and license and other fees owed them. Some are demanding a 5 year back payment while one is going for the maximum of 10 years. One state is even going after "state income tax" from the shows for money earned while in their state during the past 5 years.

In one case the state sent its auditor into the home office of an out of state circus to do the audit work. They seem to be taking the attitude of "No-Pay then No-Play" in our state.

If you do go into the state you can expect to look for attachments. As a result this could mean some major route shifts. States reported active in this program are Arkansas, Illinois, Texas, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Also noted were the fact that the IRS now has its auditors working on two shows for back taxes and fees. They are even going into performers and employees tax reports which might concern a show's operation.



ALICIA and TEDDIE STEWART, former circus aerialists, who recently retired to Florida have now purchased a home in St. Petersburg.

GENE PLOWDEN, author of several circus books, was honored at a reception with special ceremonies at the Circus Hall of Fame in Florida on Feb. 6th.

AL DAWLEY was the ringmaster for the Sam T. Polack Circus when it played at Louisville, Ky.

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Show Date

CIRCUS VARGAS by Claude Tonolli

The new big top that Circus Vargas put into the air for the first time at Topanga Plaza, Canoga Park, Calif., is a beauty. The response was good crowds and good spenders.

The show has very good wardrobe this year, and the elephant blankets look great. The show moves rapidly, with only a few bugs that should be ironed out by the time this reaches print.

The new seats are a vast improvement, and the management men look great in their tuxedos, dress shirts and fresh flower.

All in all the show equipment is in great shape. The concession trailer and doniker trailer are back after undergoing repairs at a local factory.

The media has been good to Circus Vargas and Mr. Vargas has made announcements about them. Be sure to see this show when it comes your way.

PEOPLE

WALT and MILLIE STIMAX and family will be with the Hoxie Bros. Circus again this year, with a 5 clown alley. The show opens in late March in Florida.

THE ROLLING DIAMONDS, skating act, were featured at the Sports Show in Nashville on Feb. 13-18.

JOSH SILVER, former circus clown, is currently engaged in working for the producer of a film biographer who is doing the story of "Duke Ellington."

LLOYD JONES has just issued the first copy of his new "Bat Droppings". If you would like to subscribe it is just \$3.00 per year. Write him at: 4064 - 39th Ave., Oakland, Calif. - 94619.

LOYETTE (Mrs. Vern) BURDEN, daughter of CFA State Chairman, ADEN W. LOWRY, and the paternal

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The full program for the Hubert Castle Circus at its Grand Rapids, Mich., engagement on Jan. 22-28 included the following acts:

Aerialovelies, 8 webs and 2 single trapeze; Tarzan Zerbini, 12 lions, 3 tigers; The Robertos, cradle; The Glorions, hanging perch; The Octavios, cradle; Clown "Strong Man" number with Gene Randow, Doug Ashton, Lee Marx and Mike Padilla; Killer Willard, boxing kangaroo; Derrick Rosaire and Tony, the wonder horse; Mlle. Jacqueline, single trapeze; The Drougettes, juggling; Los Martinez, perch pole; The Maple Grove Arabians, dressage; Christine's Chimps; Clowns and "Levitation"; Segura Family, trampoline with risley; The Dielkas, rolling globes; Intermission.

The 2nd half included: The Flying Ray-Lunas; Clown musical number with Doug Ashton and Miss Sally; Arturo Segura, bounding rope; Irene, Tongo & Co., gorilla parody; Ron & Mitzi, iron jaw; The Elkardis, iron jaw; Mario's Mad Hatters, hat juggling; Gary Thomas and the circus elephants with Miss Sally; The Pablo Rodriguez Troupe, aerial horizontal bars.

The show staff consisted of: Hubert Castle, producer; Col. Lucky Larabee, ringmaster; Pablo Martinez, prop boss; Clement E. Toca, bandleader and Hector Martinez, electrician.



grand mother of Clown Kansas Bozo (Patrick Burden) is recovering from emergency treatment for a badly infected hand, which was first scratched by the family cat and was compounded by work.

ADEN W. LOWRY, has been a patient at the Coffeyville, Kans., Memorial Hospital. He's well known for his button vest which includes a total of 1218 buttons.

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CLOWNS

The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus Clown Alley for the 1979 season will have a congress of twelve buffoons. Two of which will travel ahead of the show for advance promotion.

Returning from the '78 season will be: Paul Cohen, from Vineland, N.J., Jeff Starroff, Flushing, N.Y., Sandy Kaye, Memphis, Tenn., Mark Lavender, Bayonne, N.J., Mike Ferreira, DeLand, Fla, and veteran clown Jimmy James, as director of Clown Alley.

Five new clowns will be selected from the Clown College at Venice, Fla., and one from the Florida State Circus.

Circus Creations, of Daytona Beach, Fla., has been contracted to build clown productions.

IT'S NEW

A new promotional service is offered Indiana, Michigan and Ohio shows who lack promotional know-how and experience. The package includes advance ticket sales, ads, banners, media ads, school publicity and can provide concessions and novelty sales if desired.

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NOTICE

Please Note: Contrary to previously published reports the Wallenda Circus will continue to produce the circus programs for the Parkersburg and Clarksburg dates.

Bill Kay has been signed to produce the circus for the annual Wheeling date this year.

PEOPLE

VELMA LOWRY and her sister, DOLA THORN, were both winners in a local Kansas advertising campaign, winning clothing.

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