



6th Year

September 19, 1977

Number 38

# Exciting Debut

The Early American Circus, produced by Jerry P. Booker, made an exciting debut into the "big time" operation with an Aug. 29 to Sept. 5 engagement at San Mateo, Calif. The show's date was heavily promoted under the sponsorship of the local Fire Dept. and M/D. Funds going to the M/D campaign were presented on the Jerry Lewis Telethon late on the night of Sept. 5th and were credited with helping to push the annual drive to a new record.

The circus performances and the wild west after show concert were presented under a red and white big top (80x130) with matching marquee made by Leaf Tent & Sail of Sarasota, Fla. Seating consisted of bleacher type seats and folding chairs, although there were no reserved seats. A four piece band, positioned in a special wagon, backed all performances of the show. A special "guest box" was roped off at one side of the center ring. Special inside and outside lighting provided an almost day-time appearance for all evening programs.

The show's marquee was trimmed with flowers and banners and included an old sun-burst circus wagon wheel.

The midway featured an old-time circus side show, handled by John Day, with five

banners, a ticket box and a bally platform. Inside the side show were a variety of animals, including a hyena, plus fire eater, sword dancer,

(Continued on Page 15)

20 AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS 20

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## SHOW VISIT

The program presented by the Royal Danish Circus at the Michigan State Fair featured: The Clown come-in with Dan and Paxton, and Zoppi and Tag-a-long; Dan and the balloon gag; Charmine and her Pets; Bongo, the Almost Human Gorilla; The Aristocrats, trampoline; The Almiros, juggling; Dan and the rope gag; Princess Mi Imba's Baboons; Rosita & Alberto, in plate spinning; The Pizzani's, acrobats; Cronas, King of the Cosmos, aerial sensation.

The program was produced by Alberto Almiros who also handled the ringmaster and announcing chores.

..... George Da Deppo

FLORENCE STANCLIFF of 4 Westlane, Houston, Texas 77019, wants to acquire early editions of the White Tops, BandWagon and Little Circus Wagon magazines. If you have some extra back issues and think you can help her out drop her a line at the above address.

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# ROUTES

Alzafar Shrine Circus  
Sept. 20-25 San Antonio, Texas

Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus  
Sept. 19-21 Terre Haute, Ind.  
22-25 Kokomo

Carson & Barnes Circus  
Sept. 19 Salem, Ohio  
20 McKeesport, Pa.  
21 McConnellsville, Ohio  
22 Chillicothe  
23 Georgetown  
24 Erlanger  
25 Danville, Ky.

Circus Vargas  
Sept. 21-25 St. John, N.B.

Dobritch Int'l Circus  
Sept. 22-25 Detroit, Mich.

Hall & Christ Circus Unique  
Sep. 23-Oct. 1 Memphis, Tenn.

Hoxie Bros. Circus  
Sept. 19 New Providence, N.J.  
21 Egg Harbor City  
22 Pennsville  
23-24 Fallston, Md.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit  
Sept. 20-25 Detroit, Mich.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
Sept. 20-25 Seattle, Wash.

Hoxie's Great American Circus  
Sept. 19 Iselin, N. J.  
20 So. Plainfield  
21 Cape May C.H.  
22 Mantua  
23 Hillsborough  
24 Howell  
25 Union Beach

King Bros.-Cole Cmbd. Circus  
Sept. 19 Atmore, Ala.  
20 Columbia, Miss.  
21 Pascagoula  
22 Gulfport  
23 Slidell, La.  
24-25 Baton Rouge

Sells & Gray Circus  
Sept. 19 Salem, Ill.  
20 Centralia  
21 Mt. Vernon  
22 Harrisburg  
23 Metropolis  
24 Murray, Ky.  
25 Fulton

Stebbing's Royal European Circus  
Sept. 22-Oct. 3 Richmond, Va.

John Strong Circus  
Sept. 19 Chico, Calif.  
20 Quincy  
21 Susanville  
22 Sparks, Nev.  
23 Fallon  
24 Hawthorne  
25 Bishop, Calif.

Sudan Temple Shrine Circus  
Sept. 17 Fayetteville, N.C.

Swan Bros. Circus  
Sept. 24 Palo Alto, Calif.  
25 Sunnyvale

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus  
Sept. 21-25 Sioux Falls, S. D.

----- OTHER ROUTES -----

Amusement Park Assoc. Meet  
Sept. 22-24 Santa Clara, Calif.

Bakers Marionettes  
Each weekend at Los Angeles  
(Calif)

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit  
Sept. 19-24 Columbus, Miss.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit  
Sept. 19-24 Rome, Ga.

James H. Drew Shows  
Sept. 19-24 Marietta, Ga.

Foley & Burk Shows  
Sep. 22-Oct 2 Bakersfield, Ca.

The Gong Show  
Sept. 24 Tucson, Ariz. ;

Ice Follies  
Sept. 20-23 Denver, Colo.

Magictime USA - Prof. Miller  
Sept. 23 Barrington, R. I.  
24 Fall River, Mass.

Passport to Magic Meet  
Sept. 24-25 Malton, Ont.

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## BILLY BARTON . . . .

**THE BRIGHT PROMISE** shown by the intrepid **CHRISTOPHER JAMES** will come to full focus when the wirewalker opens with **CIRCUS VARGAS** on Dec. 26th. The Plunkett Family, comedy trampoline, will also be center-ringed on the mammoth tent which seems to be changing its program and adding a number of outstanding new features. Incidentally, Circus Vargas lays off only five days this year before launching its new season.

**TOMMY BENTLEY** and **CHUCK CLANCEY** have set new Johnstown (Pa) dates which are now Oct. 8-9th. Some of the talent set includes **LILLI-ANA**, the **BURGERS**, and **PRINCE NAJVEZ**. A number of top acts spark the **ROYAL HANNEFORD** Circus biggies in November. . . **GAYLORD MAYNARD**, The **BAUERS**, the **PALACIOS**, Sir **VICTOR JULIAN**, **ANDERSON's** White Horse Troupe, the **URIAS TROUPE**, Miss **AERIALETTA**, **LOS LATINOS**, the **RAMOS Family**, **SATANI**, to name but a few.

**SNAPSHOTS:** **JEANNINE HALL**, suffering an odd skin ailment, is now working single-O with her Javana's Jungle Jubilee (baboons)....**EDNA ANTES** was called home from Beatty-Cole due to her mother's illness....The **WAZZAN's** and **MIKE NAUGHTON** were spotted visiting the **HANNEFORDS** at Storytown USA....**WIMPEY**, the English clown, just back from Japan, is playing fair dates....The "stage coach" **DAVIDE ZOPPE** engineered for his wife, **SUSAN** and her Afghan dog act is a work of art. The lighted coach is pulled into the ring by canines with Susan doing acrobatic routines on the moving prop....**SONJA ZOPPE** recovered from a broken wrist only to fall heir to a severe eye infection....The **DAVIDE ZOPPE** Family will be with Castle in '78 - that show is rumored to have signed the St. Louis Police Circus....**BARBARA LUXEM's** night club opening (as an organist) this winter was so successful the management wants her full time....**VICKI TAYLOR**, well known femme ventriloquist, recently visited with good friend **TOTIE FIELDS**. Miss Taylor is winding up a lengthy fair route for **BETTER BOOKING**.

**NEWSMAKERS:** Glamour Boy **JIMMY CAVARETTA** is encored in this month's issue of **PLAYGIRL**, and a recent issue of the **National Enquirer** carries a photo of Circus World's **JEWEL NEW** riding a motorcycle with his lion.

**WHERE, WHO and WHEN:** The **ZAMPERLA's** make the New Jersey State Fair....The **PISANIS** and **MY-AMBA's** Baboons duet at the Michigan State Fair for

the **ROYAL DANISH CIRCUS**....The Minnesota State Fair heads up the Hanneford Circus Thrill Show spotlighted by **Eddy Ventura**, Miss April, The Flying Viennas, **Schmitt-Albulet**, the **Geraldos**, **Louis Muriillo** and a slide for life....**TONY STEEL** debuts his new YMCA training center in Elkhart (Ind) this month....**CIRCUS CAROL** resumed operations on the 10th....**JOHNNY** and **BETTY ZOPPE** wound up their Canadian Fairs with their Space Odyssey aerial sensation.

**QUICKIES:** **JOHN CUNEO's** father passed away....**JIMMY HALL** was clawed in the face by **HERTA CUNEO's** Himalayan, required stitching....**VASHEK** played a Rhode Island Park, booked in at the last minute by **ED MIGLEY**....**KAY PITTENGER** is back in the air on Beatty-Cole....**DIANE**, of the **FLYING VALENTINES**, broke her hand practicing a standing back, is out of the act....**PETER HAUBNER** is back in the Hanneford Riding act and is featuring a forward somersault....**DIANO's** Elephants preceded a run with **EMMETT KELLY, Jr.** by playing fair dates for **HUBLER**....**JO ANN JENNIER** is now using an Elton John routine with Sunny in her seal act. She built a new "seal cart" for the animal and he likes it so much she has problems luring him OUT of it!....**GUNNAR AMANDIS** continues his busy schedule by setting acts with fairs and dates for Hanneford, Eddie Zacchini and others....The **CARDEN-JOHNSON** elephants are now presented by **BILL GOLDEN**....Horse trainer **DON McCLELLAN**, who is making new elephant headbands for **TOMMY HANNEFORD** is or has undergone open heart surgery....Ringmaster **RAY ORSZAK** resembling either a young Col. Sanders or a Hopalong Cassidy (take your pick) is making fabulous new wardrobe for himself, for the Hannefords, for Aerialetta, as well as elephant blankets for the Hanneford herd....**KAY ROSAIRE** is also thick into the bugle-beads, updating her wardrobe for an outstanding lion act which is soon to make "big news"....The Clever **HERMINES** midgets featured at Gaslight Village (near Lake George, NY) this summer as well as an Ice Revue staged by Illusionist **RON URBAN**....At Storytown USA, along with the Hanneford Circus was a very good Water Show, featuring Champion diver **TIM McLAUGHLIN** (seen on ABC's Wide World of Sports) who plans to tour a high-dive into fire thriller on circuses and fairs in '78 (and we could use one)....**GEORGE HUBLER** told me **TOMMY BENTLEY** and **CHUCK CLANCEY** have tripled the previous promotions for his Carson & Barnes date at

(Continued on Page 13)

## PEOPLE

LOLA ENGESESSER, of the Western Wild Cats Band and Show, recently celebrated her 14th birthday. She is a singer and does magic with the show. However, this was one time when the magician was more surprised than the audience.

Each time that Lola reached in for a "load" to make something appear, instead of a dove, silk or flowers she found it was another birthday present. It had all been prearranged with the Club Manager and for the finale she found a "Fire to Flowers" pan and instead of flowers it produced her own birthday cake.

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

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## In Memoriam

HOWDY AHRHART (63) general agent for the Carson & Barnes Circus since 1969 died at Sarasota, Fla., after a bout with cancer. His wife has been carrying on his work with the C&B show.

COL. OTTOMAN JOSEPH HERMANN (69) famed Lipizzan horse rider and trainer, died at Freehold, N. J. on Aug. 4th. He was born in Austria and came to the U. S. during World War II and settled in Florida.

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## BLOWDOWN

Hoxie Bros. Circus suffered a blowdown of its big top and side show when 80 mph wind gusts swept through Sussex, N. J., at 4 p.m. on Sept. 2nd. The only injury reported was to a working man who suffered a slight bump on the head.

The show's three year old round top was completely demolished and the steel pipe flying act ringing frame was bent double. All other equipment, including the high wire rigging, the seats and stringers, and most of the poles were salvaged. The side show top, which was new in the spring of '76, is salvagable. The main show will be held in the open until the old single center pole round top, last used in 1974, can be shipped in from Florida.

Through the combined efforts of performers and crew, the big top area was cleared and two performances, starting an hour late, were presented under the open sky, to full houses. The only act unable to work was the flying act.

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Man wanted to train and produce bear act. We will pay all production fees, props, feed, cages, etc., plus training fees - would be interested in buying trained act of two or three bears.

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Carson & Barnes Circus returned to Wisconsin for several days of good business early this month. At Portage (Sept. 3) the show drew one of the largest crowds of the season, thus far, with people sitting right up to the ring curbs

New York agent, Rose Adair, arrived an hour after the storm and braved the mud to take in the first performance. She marvelled at the efforts of the crew and performers who, in spite of mud and inconvenience, were still able to put on a show as usual to a very appreciative and responsive audience.

..... Linda Chandler

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## PEOPLE

AL and SUE DAWLEY visited the Stebbings Circus at the Greenville, S. C., Fair and report that CARL LINARES and the TABAKS are on the show. Al is announcer for the free acts at the fair.

RUCKER'S K-NINES and UNCLE RALPH'S BARNYARD REVUE will play Shrine sponsored dates for Beck's Circorama Sept. 21-Nov. 2, then play a series of winter dates through Dec.

10th for Ron Bacon and Dick Johnson. They will be working with the BOBBY LANG Family.

DAVE PITTENGER (Lodi Duo) and SHERI McNUR from Lyons, Ill., were married on Aug. 23rd at the Springfield Lake K.O.A. grounds. Standing up with the couple were RAY and SUE MAREK, of the Flying Lar-Rays.

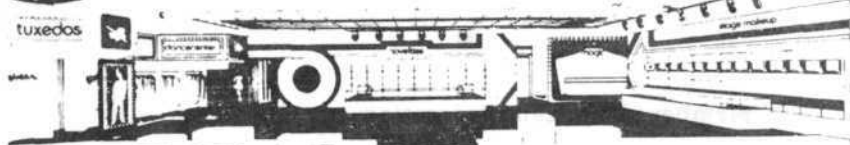
TOM UPTON, circus photographer, spent last week with the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit in Fresno, Calif.



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## REVIEW

The TNT & Royal Olympic Circus played the Southwick Mall in Toledo (Ohio) Aug. 24-28. Performances were at 1, 4 and 7 p.m. This was the 4th consecutive year the show was set for the mall and owner Earl Tegge says the date has been resigned for next year.

The fast-paced free show consistently draws large crowds, holds them for a 35 minute performance, then releases them to patronize the Mall's merchants. Tegge said most dates have been inked for '78 and several new ones have been added, which will have the show opening in Southern California in early January. This year's tour will close in late October at Madison, Wisc.

The Toledo performance began with a five minute overture featuring Louise Tegge (Earl's wife) at the organ and son Tim on Drums. Earl is introduced as "Mr. Circus" and then brings on the Rajja balancing duo. They are followed by a clown break with Tim Tegge, juggler Dick Franco, a color book pitch and Marse Begary on the single trapeze.

Tegge says Hunkie Johnson's bears are used on some dates. In most instances the shopping malls refuse to allow animals in their buildings,

## Miscellaneous

The Wonderful World of Circus will be presented under a new red, white and blue big top (70x110 ft) made by the United States Tent and Awning Co. of Sarasota. The 40 ft. office/concession trailer was built by E. B. Anderson.

even performing animals.

Tim Tegge has designed a new program/coloring book, which in the opinion of this writer, is one of the finest offered by any show. It combines pictures of the acts, historical sketch of the American circus, biography of the Tegges and their show, and a section of pages for coloring. The book is sold for 75c and is printed by circus fan W. H. Hohenadel, of Rochelle, Ill. The art work and most of the photos were created by Tim Tegge.

Juggler Dick Franco, who recently left his home in Youngstown, Ohio, to travel with the show, keeps the "close-up" audience entertained with an outstanding routine. He concludes his act with three ping pong balls which he blows out of his mouth to a height of about 20 ft. and catches them again - in his mouth. He sustains the routine for about a minute.

..... Tom Morrison

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## They're Married

A special wedding ceremony was held under the Circus Vargas big top for Mary and Joe Davidson on Aug. 19th.

The bride wore a traditional white gown and carried a bouquet of pink and white carnations. Mr. Cliff Vargas acted as best man and Jan Joyner was the Matron of Honor.

The center ring and arch were specially trimmed in white flowers for the occasion by Mr. Vargas.

The ceremony was followed by a champagne reception attended by Circus Vargas employees and members of the bride and groom's families.

Anna Fritz caught the bridal bouquet.

..... Jan Joyner

## Miscellaneous

The Wonderful World of Circus, which is owned and operated by John Jordan and the Dubsky Bros., Janos and Harry, will have its official op-

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ening on Sept. 21st at Charlotte, N. C.

The Wonderful World of Circus will be working a string of malls and sponsored dates in the North and South, until its Circus Hall of Fame opening on Dec. 13th. At the CHF the show will be presented under its former title, Royal Palace Circus.

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## Big Show

The entire collection of Circus Model Builder Milo Smith, of Herkimer, N.Y., was displayed from Aug. 3 to 27 at the J. F. Kennedy Civic Arena in Rome, N.Y., as part of an exhibit commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Revolutionary War Battle of Oriskany. This was the first time his entire collection has been displayed in its entirety and is the result of his 1 inch scale building, dating back to the mid-1940's.

Featured was the Smith Bros. Circus train which extended for 72 ft. all mounted on track. It consisted of locomotive, caboose, 2 stock cars, a Ringling sleeper and 6 flats, all loaded with various wagons. Also on display was his two Sig Sautelle Canal Boat Show (each boat 7 ft. long) and complete in every detail. Many tableau wagons with hitches and carvings of many performers and models of their acts.

The collection was insured for \$100,000 while it was displayed and it was the first time the train had been displayed in its entirety.

..... Elbert L. Wert

ROY ROGERS "King of the Cowboys" was hit in the face with a pie last week while entertaining at the opening of one of his family restaurants in Fairfax, Va.

## BILLY BARTON (Continued)

Covington (Ky).

**NEWS FROM SELLS & GRAY:** SAMPION's mother is back in Paris....MIMI ZERBINI has been out of the show with a dislocated shoulder....The KARLTON Magic Show was a recent visitor....Biz has been very good....JOHN STRONG visited....HENRY THOMPSON has added Tarantulas to the side show and elephant handler HEADDOWN HARRY sez he's training them to do web!

**ASIDE TO JOANNE PINSON:** Your "freight train" semi-trailer, a duplicate of AURELIA HALL's loses out kids. Aurelia says her's is longer. Sorry about that!

**FLASH:** MAFALDA ZAMPERLA married JAMES ZOPPE in Atlantic City this summer, now watch for wedding bells to chime loud and clear for JEANNETTE RIX, very, very soon!

See you down the road, luvs.

BOBBY GIBBS hosted a birthday party for his wife, ROSA, at the Circus World Museum on Aug. 31st. Hundreds of friends, Circus Fans and Museum staff members attended the event which included a live band, refreshments and of course a cake.

MILONGA CLINE is now teaching school in Florida, working with the multi-language unit.

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Blackwood, N. J. - 08012

## CLYDE BEATTY-COLE BROS.

A solid campaign of radio, television and newspaper advertising garnered six ¼ to straw house crowds for the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus at Canton, Ohio, on Aug. 29-31st. The media reciprocated with front page coverage of the show's activities before, during and after its arrival. Radio and TV stations carried stories and interviews, including the play-by-play of an "elephant race" with local news people in the saddles.

The show played on a paved lot adjoining the large Belden Village Shopping Mall, located within eye shot of heavily traveled I-77, between Canton and Akron. Publicity began three weeks prior to the show's arrival when an advance ticket booth was set-up in the mall's main lobby. The booth was flashed with circus lithos and pictures of the acts. Tickets were sold at \$4.00 and \$2.50 with children eleven years and under getting a free ducat when accompanied by an adult. Gate prices were \$5.00 and \$3.50 with reserves going for an extra dollar. Two days before the show's arrival advance clown Troy 'Buppa' Strait worked the mall and received front page coverage from the Canton newspaper.

Animal trainer Dave Hoover says the shopping

## ROUTES

Tip Top Shows

Sept. 23-25 La Crescent, Wisc.

Western Wild Cats

Sept. 18-21 Inverness, Fla.

22-24 Inn Between Lounge

Windjammers Regional Meet

Sept. 23-25 Indianapolis, Ind.

40 Horse Hitch

Sept. 18-24 Centerville, Mich.

center format has been totally successful to this date. Only two non-mall dates were played this year, the annual Shrine spots in Philadelphia and Wilmington. He quoted co-owner Frank McClosky as saying he hopes the show will never again have to regress to phones.

The fast paced two hour show gives patrons their money's worth. Highlighted by such top drawer acts as Ron and Mitzi's iron jaw production number, Hoover's cats, the herd of nine elephants, Rayall's aerial motorcycle and the Gaona family, the show will have little trouble in resigning dates for next year.

..... Tom Morrison

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CAN USE DATES IN DEC. '77

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**Miscellaneous**

The Chinese Circus played in Miami Beach, Fla., on Sept. 8-11 to reportedly good crowds.

The Lions Clubs Circus, out of Penna., has offered to sell its equipment. Reason for the sale, says an official, is that the organization's goals have been realized.

The Buffalo Bill Wild West Show was advertised for a Sept. 17-18 engagement at Uniondale, N. Y.

**PEOPLE**

PARLEY BAER has just been released from the hospital after suffering from an attack of nervous exhaustion.

CLARK McDERMOTT has a new permanent mailing address which is: 4515 Harrison, Redding, Calif. - 96001.

PEPPY, the Chimp & Co. are closing the 1977 season with Xmas Shows, after a successful year of engagements with Voorheis Bros. and Variety Attractions, appearing mostly in mid-western states. Engagements included fairs, circuses, shopping centers and celebrations.

**EXCITING DEBUT (Continued)**  
belly dancer, snakes, etc.

A novelty stand and concession unit cooperated by Fritz Lauber were located on the left side, as were an Indian Village and two former old Hagenbeck-Wallace wagons, each painted red and lettered in white and blue with the show's title. The circus ticket wagon was located in the center, at the entrance to the midway.

The program featured: Harry Thomas and his tigers; Sue McMillan with a tiger, dog and horse; Mark on the bounding rope; Victoria's liberty ponies; Chris, juggling and slack wire; Tex's trained chimp; Tina's Pets; The Young Duo, aerial cradle; Lani Ironberg, high school horse; Miss Evita, single trapeze; The Sumidas, high wire; Jeffries California Seals and a large contingent of clowns.

The Wild West Concert and Indian Village were directed by Dale M. Yearian while the announcing and ringmaster chores were handled by Jerry P. Booker.

**WANTED**

**Two Good Butchers or Man and Wife team who want to make some serious money in Concessions.**

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## REVIEW

An unusual physical set-up titled "Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Thrill Circus, The Greatest Thrill Show on Earth" played at the Ohio State Fair Aug. 22-28. Patrons expecting to see a slick polished spectacular Ringling show with beautiful wardrobe, lights and pageantry, were disappointed.

To the credit of Producer Kenneth Feld, the best possible high acts were booked, but the physical set-up was definitely a liability. As one veteran performer remarked, "Any other producer would have insisted the Fair clean out the infield." This was probably easier said than done as a typical Ohio State Fair Grandstand attraction is presented on a stage across the wide race track, centered in front of an average size grandstand. In recent years this big fair has spent \$250 to \$300,000 on big name acts, all playing to over capacity at the Free Grandstand, and completely filling the track in both directions until nothing could be seen. Such big name stars demanded and received a number of huge house trailers and auxiliary vehicles for dressing rooms, etc. There was no compromise visible for the Ringling produced Thrill Circus.

The infield was littered with an estimated 100 vehicles concerned with the Fair, plus the many trucks and trailers owned by the circus acts. Aerial riggings were erected to the convenience of the excess vehicles, rather than the other way. The big show set up one flashy semi trailer loaded with not the expected circus equipment, but with three year old programs from one of their regular units, and having nothing to do with the Grandstand attraction. T-shirts and other novelties were sold in the stands, and in

the bleachers erected some half mile away on the far side of the race track.

Each of the four elephant acts had to supply its own ring curb and the acts worked at the same time with Jeannette Rix's caged bear act and George Barreda's excellent lion act. Unfortunately this great number could not be seen in its entirety unless one was at the top of McPeak's rigging. Patrons sitting in the far side bleachers were on top of the elephants, but in no way could they see through the stage and "used car lot" to see the two big cages which were spotted on the Grandstand side of the Infield, but still quite far from the audience. Rix's cage was spotted especially deep and worked to a disadvantage.

Announcer Johnny Herriott worked from the roof of the Infield covered stage, did an excellent job, and pulled every stop. In addition to Herriott who came over from Ringling Red, the big show had on hand executive Allen Bloom of Washington, act coordinator Rhodeen, Tuffy Genders and a crew from winter quarters. Bill Pruhn was on the scene with a good band. This reported at first thought the music was recorded, but due to the unusual set-up, the band was set-up back stage, so they could not be seen from the Grandstand. It is doubtful that they could have been nestled among the cars and trailers from the fair side bleachers, either, but undoubtedly their weird setting was to give the leader a clear view of the outstanding high acts, all of which have been seen individually at circuses and fairs across the country, but probably never as many as this at one time.

Many of the acts in the show were booked by

(Continued on Page 17)

AVAILABLE FOR WINTER DATES AND 1978 SEASON



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**OHIO FAIR REVIEW (Continued)**

Gil Miller. The rumored budget charged to the Fair was in the vicinity of \$150,000 to \$200,000. The high tower for McPeak's long wire walk reportedly cost \$12,000 and all acts received approximately double their normal salary.

When reviewed at the 6 p.m. show (Aug. 22) the 4:30 performance of the Sylvers, a black singing group played to overflow crowds. As soon as the singing show was over, the stands were emptied and a new crowd admitted. For the circus, the grandstand was about half full, with a few on the track and a nice crowd in the other bleachers some half mile across the infield. Anyone sitting more than half-way up, could not see the top of the sway poles or McPeak's rigging and everyone sitting more than ten rows up were unable to see the helicopter act of Michael and Michelle, until the climax of the act, when the big bird flew over the horizon back to its nexting spot.

When people had settled in their seats and with five minutes to go until showtime, Johnny Herriott announced the time and that the best seats were in the far away bleachers. Most patrons had stood up to an hour in the hot sun to get into the grandstand and once seated were too exhausted to walk the half mile to better seats.

All acts appearing with the show were standard American acts, with the exception of the remarkable Vickie Unus, who should be considered a "Ringling" act from her long association with that show. Vickie had her uprights guyed out on the top of the stage roof, near Herriott's mike. Tuffy Genders, wearing his familiar western hat, pulled her to the top of the rigging for her spectacular and marvelous 65 one arm swings, a fine climax to an excellent aerial number.

Bypassing the technical difficulties was the

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top talent. Show opened with Geronimo's high dive on one side of the stage and Miss Winn's slide for life on the other. Then came the elephant and cat acts, followed by the Helicopter thrill. Next was Jordan's upside down unicycle, the Reynosa Bros. Pirates of the Sky, Evy Fosssett's high revolving moon, climaxed with Vickie Unus in the center. The Great Wallendas, with Karl, Delilah and husband, Reitta and one other male, performed their usual high wire nifties, as two sets of Winn Brothers aerial motorcycles roared up and down the inclined cables. A great sway pole display found the Fosssetts, Swaying Stars at one side, Nocks trio near them. The very high and dangerous acting Wong Brothers were spotted far away at the other end of the infield. With great booking luck, both Zacchini acts were able to play this much talked about date. Unfortunately, they were located some distance from each other, and made relatively short jumps. How terrific it would have been if the "used car lot" could have been reshuffled, so the cannons faced each other and had a criss crossing shot into each other's nets, perhaps firing over someone's high rigging.

(Continued on Page 18)

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## OHIO FAIR REVIEW (Continued)

A few years back it was common to see a cannon or cannons criss cross firing over several ferris wheels. This critic will outspokenly say some one goofed on the cannon set-up, for maximum effect.

A long or shot cannon shot is a tough act to follow, but Unique McPeak did that with excellent results. His wire was stretched from one far end of the infield far across to the other, rigged to what must have been at least a 200 ft. scaffold, specially erected for this date. Once he started his journey upwards and the crowds realized the distance, and eventual height and steep incline at the last 75 ft., they froze in their seats. The early walkers stopped and stood in hushed silence. An approaching black thunder storm added to the suspense. If the rain had hit at say the ¾ mark one has to wonder if McPeak would have tried to turn around and slide back down, climb down a supporting guy line, or erect a pocket umbrella and wait it out. One bit of McPeak showmanship consists of nonchalantly walking up the inclined wire, whistling, looking out at the audience and carrying his balancing pole over his shoulder like a rifle or fishing rod. Once nearing the top, he gas up a near fall, and adds considerable suspense. At the top of the high pedestal, he takes his farewell style then waits for the crowd to head out, before donning coveralls and climbing down the scaffold, after first lowering his balance pole. The audience ate up every second of this, and many still waited until he finally got back to the ground. Without doubt, Unique McPeak

## Show Acts

Visited the Kelly Bros. Circus at Pittsburg, Kans. on Aug. 30th and enjoyed the day. The show was short of help, but Supt. Nick Bengor got it up in time for the matinee. They were scheduled for two shows and had to give three to handle the crowds.

Nick Bengor has the novelties, Heinz Fraunstein, concessions, the Canestrellis run the big Moon Walk and Neil Franzen has the elephant ride. Ray Hartzell handles the show music.

The program includes the Canestrellis wire act, Gorilla Jargo, Sue Franzen, chimps, Canestrelli on rola bola, Mich Miller, clown, Neil Franzen and trained dog, Miss Fabi, trapeze, Canestrelli on teeterboard, Clowns, Heinz Fraunstein, spinning plates, Miss Fabi, Spanish web, Sue Franzen and Sheena the elephant.

..... Jack Bennett



(when weather permitted) was the hit of the "Greatest Thrill Show on Earth".

Ringling and Fair officials did a superb job of posting the area with small posters in every Ohio Rest Camp (one patron remarked that Gov. Rhodes should spend less money on circuses and more on improvements at the camps). The posters were beautiful full-color jobs showing Big Tommy leading the Ringling bulls, Wallenda's high wire, Winn's motorcycles on slanted wires, twin 1770 cannons, Barreda's lions, Rix's bears, Jordan's upside down unicycle and a nostalgic drawing of Alfredo Codona in his famous one arm pose.

While some 18 State Fairs were reportedly interested in a comparable unit (the same acts would never be available at the same time in a future year) it is doubtful that many if any would pay the high price offered by Ohio. Also, most of the big Fairs that might afford this astronomical budget are located in big cities that already have one of the regular units of the undisputed Greatest Show on Earth.

..... Glenn Martin

## FOR SALE

— ROUTE CARDS —

- Sells Floto 1924 - No. 6 - \$8.00  
 R.B.B.B. 1933 - No. 2 - \$4.00  
 " 1935 - No. 3, 7, 8 - \$3.00 ea.  
 " 1941 - No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,  
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ACTUALLY, Steubenville, home of Dean Martin, Jimmy the Greek, Telley's Lollipop Factory, and Tanja Ticklers Turkish Steam Sauna is Alive and Well!

NOW BOOKING FOR MARCH 18-19, 1978: Elephants wid big tooth (Lt. Lee Dino answer) - Flashy riding act doing 22 or more (TJ Osprey call) - Big Comedy Cat act with cordless mike and mirror ball (Jane answer) Combination man eating horned toad and mixed up Animal Act (Gabby Bibbs get up & Boogie) Good MC and Ballet gum chewing checker -(Johnny Chariot write) Big Time Illusionist with vanishing blonde assistant, doubling on bongo drums & 24 hr. man. Must furnish own beer bottles for arrows (Great Dallas cable) Aerial Ballet Producers adheerring to our policy: "One girl in blue is better than 32" -OR- "You're still ahead with one girl in red" Irvken Duo answer)... Peanut Privilege Pending - J. Carter call one more time)... Novelty agents report to Ronnie Ringinn. Foxy Lady Secretary report to Dirty Ole Manley in Committee Office. (Reading or writting not required) - Funny clowns with new gags such as firecracker, big balloon, payday/envelope, etc.

ATTENTION COMMITTEES: We have exhausted our supply of Greyhound Bus tickets and box lunches, but would be happy to visit YOUR Show; kindly forward return airline tickets and luxury suite reservations. ALSO NEED 300 CIRCUS FANS (fried or Parboiled) with strong necks capable of carrying 19 unloaded cameras at one time, completely filling in back door area (so our acts can learn how to enter via the front door,). Fans must not be bashful but feel free to ask: Promotor how much he grossed; Performer's Salary; tell agent he booked town wrong time of year - tell press how much better it was in good old days with Adam Forepaugh, also eat your lunch while sitting on ring curbs firing flashbulbs at bewildered audience. Preference to those wearing open toed Desert Sandals and participating in new Super Spec "Hannibal crossing the Divided Alps in -40° Blizzard"

WRITE: "Old George" 5275 Denise Dr. Dayton O. 45429, or when in Sarasota call Special Agent Gunnar, Collect!