



8th Year

August 20, 1979

Number 34

New Circus Film

A new circus movie called "Die Laughing" was recently filmed in San Francisco, Calif., under the direction of Jon Peters-Orion Productions. It is a comedy-mystery which stars Bobby Benson, who along with his father, wrote the script and music.

According to one film official the DeWayne Bros. Circus provided the inspiration for the key scenes in this story about international intrigue.

The circus has been "Sovietized" for the film and serves as the background where Benson is pursued by a horde of over and under-sized Russian circus performers.

The red and white big top was set up near the San Francisco Zoo and shooting took approximately a week. Clowns, elephants, two black panthers, monkeys and a crowd of about 1,000 people were used in the film. The director was hoping for a foggy background and he got his wish, as the weather cooperated fully with

plenty of good thick fog each day.

At one point the film's star is chased by a 7 ft. 6 in. giant who goes after him, causing him to run in, around and over the elephants, then up the big circus center pole. Benson did all of his own stunt work as the camera angles would not permit for use of a double.

"It was a one-take shot all the way," said the director. "It was so dangerous we couldn't let him do it a second time."

(Continued on Page 6)

Problems

The Contra Costa County Fair at Antioch, Calif., is in a desperate struggle to stay alive. The new manager, John B. Burke, thinks the fair will survive, but it is going to take five years or so to put it on its feet.

Buildings and landscaping are in need of repairs, more exhibits are needed and most of all the fair needs a great many more paying patrons. Even so attendance for this year's fair (Aug. 1-5) was slightly ahead of that of last year.

Burke's job isn't an easy one and it has been made even more difficult because of several incidents that occurred last year. There was a mini-riot, a carnival worker was arrested for rigging a game so patrons couldn't win and when the carnival was being dismantled there was an injury which has resulted in a lawsuit. This was followed by the resignation of the former fair

(Continued on Page 6)

REPORT

The Ironberg Dog & Pony Circus is playing a series of west coast dates, offering and entertaining and pleasing program. The show plays fairs, promotional spots and shopping centers and draws well for each performance.

The circus program is presented under a square end, green and white top with matching sidewall. It travels on one straightbed truck, which is green and unlettered. The tent poles are white, while the bleacher style seats are blue.

The program includes: Sun Dance, the trained pony; Miss Tina's Dog Revue (5); Lani's rope spinning; the trained doves, presented by Tina and Lani's high school horse.

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PEOPLE

MIKE SORRILL has been traveling with the Carson & Barnes Circus to get photos for some upcoming new advertising material.

REPORT**STEBBING'S CIRCUS**

... by Clarence Hastings

The Dorothy Herbert Tent, CFA, held its meeting on the Stebbing Royal European Circus on Saturday, July 28th, at Ypsilanti, Mich. The show was here sponsored by the American Legion.

Bill Stebbing, is the owner/ringmaster and music was provided by Grace and Lou Castello at the organ and drums.

The program featured: Cage Act by John Stebbing; The Aston's Table Act; Web with Miss Tammy and Miss Denise; The Bakers (four clowns); Snakes, Tony Magena; Trapeze, Kay Pittinger; Single Elephant, Baby Lou and Miss Holly (5 yrs. old); Toby Ballentine, juggling; Chimp Act (not working here); The Bakers, a clown musical number; The Five Ashtons, risley; Stilts, Travv, Tammy and Toby Ballentine; Elephants, John Stebbing.

PEOPLE

KARL, SHEILA and PAULINE WINN will return to the U. S. early next month after completing an 8 week engagement in Japan with their aerial motorcycle act.

LLOYD JONES reports that Vol. 2 of the "Thayer Instruction Sheets" will go to press late this year.

FRANK SMITH and LESTER Le VEAY will have their "Pizza Parlor" shop at the California State Fair in Sacramento. JACK BENNETT has been working with the duo and reportedly is on the west coast "looking for something to buy."

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

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23-26 Grand Rapids

Carden-Johnson Circus

Aug. 22-24 Vancouver, BC

Carson & Barnes Circus

Aug. 20 Jefferson, Wisc.
21 Lake Geneva
22 Winthrop Harbor, Ill
23 Maywood
24 Oak Lawn
25 Hoffman Estates
26 Grays Lake

Circus Vargas

Aug. 21-23 Colo Sprgs, Colo.
24-27 Lakewood

Hanneford Aerial Circus

Aug 23-Sep 3 St. Paul, Minn.

Tommy Hanneford Circus

to Sep 12 Middletown, Ohio

Happytime Circus

Aug. 17-Sep. 4 Sacramento, Cal.

Int'l All Star Circus

Aug. 23 Manassas, Va.
25 Roanoke

Ironberg's Dog & Pony Circus

Aug. 23-26 Hayfork, Calif.

Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus

Aug 24-Sep 3 Du Quoin, Ill.

Lin-Rich Animal Circus

Aug. 21-25 Parkersburg, W.Va.

Monte Carlo Circus

to Sep. 3 Haines City, Fla.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

Aug. 21-26 Kansas City, Mo.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

Aug. 21-28 Oakland, Calif.

Royal Danish Circus

Aug. 22-25 Hanover, Mass.

Swan Bros. Circus

Aug. 21-25 Victorville, Calif.

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

Aug. 21-25 Reading, Pa.

----- MAGIC -----

Manzini, Escape Artist
Aug. 26 New York, NY

Prf. Miller - Magic Time USA

Aug. 21 Salamana, NY
22 Olean
23 Gowanda
24 Wellsville
25 Hornell

Royter, the Magician

Aug. 23 Leadville, Colo.
24 Craig
25 Durango
26 Alamosa

----- OTHER DATES -----

ATA Nat'l Truck Rodeo
Aug. 23-25 Phoenix, Ariz.

Burger's Animal Revue
to Sep. 9 Grand Island, NY

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
to Aug 26 Des Moines, Iowa

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit
to Aug 26 Des Moines, Iowa

Clowns, Inc.

Aug. 18 New Castle, Pa.
25 Eldwood City

James H. Drew Exposition
Aug. 20-25 Gray, Tenn.

Foley & Burk Shows

Aug. 23-26 Grass Valley, Calif.

Ice Capades

to Aug. 22 Duluth, Minn.

Ice Follies

Aug. 21-26 Denver, Colo.

Kaye Hollywood Elephants

to Sep. 3 Variety Attractions

Lipko's Comedy Chimps

to Sept. 3 Sandusky, Ohio

Los Latinos - Wire Act

to Aug. 26 Ottawa, Canada

Mighty Thomas Shows

Aug. 22-25 Pierre, SD

Mighty Thomas Shows - Red Unit

Aug. 22-26 Douglas, Wyo.



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Sad Buster - Clown

Aug. 24-26 Liberty, Texas

Sloan's Black & White Minstrels

to Sep. 3 San Francisco, Calif.

Tip Top Shows - Blue Unit

Aug. 22-26 Weyauwega, Wisc.

Tip Top Shows - Green Unit

Aug. 23-26 Lancaster, Wisc.

Vashek Duo - Aerial Motorcycle

Aug 23-Sep 2 St. Paul, Minn.



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THE ALI GHAN Shrine Temple of Cumberland, Md., sponsored a series of events from July 21 thru July 28, kicking off with the HUBLER INTL. CIRCUS July 21 (Hagerstown, Md) and July 22-23 (Cumberland), followed by the DIAMOND S. RODEO July 24 (Frederick), July 25 (Cumberland) and July 26 (Oakland). In conjunction with these events were the week-long carnival at the Shrine Park in Cumberland and the North-South Football Game at Hagerstown July 28th.

THE Hubler produced circus featured the following talent: Tino Wallenda Zoppe, high wire; The Flying Vasquez; the Great Huberto; Karen Nyce; Los Latinos; Felipe Bros. (3 head balancing traps); Diano's Elephants; Mister Sensation; Rix's Bears and clowns John MacKay and Bill Slater. Ralph Schappacher produced the rodeo, also provided seating for the two day Shrine Circus at Cumberland.

HERTA CUNEO spent several days at Marineland and brought home two baby tigers which she has to bottle feed and keep in a play-pen. The cubs did not have their eyes open when she brought them back.

SAD NEWS that MRS. ASHTON passed away this spring. The 90 year old Matriarch of the famed Ashton troupe of risley-artist (at one time the most famous) fell from the trailer and broke her hip. A blood clot formed which ended her life.

TINO WALLEENDA ZOPPE and OLINKA were featured in a full color spread on the cover of "Christian Life". Likewise GUNTHER GEBEL WILLIAMS had a full color cover in the newspaper 'Grit'. The story inside was pedestrian.

CLOSEUPS: VENECIO VASQUEZ married GOLDA ASHTON . . . DORIS and RALPH SCHAUPPACHER are splitsville sorry to say. Doris is

now connected with GEORGE MOF-FAT's Variety Attractions and Ralph is taking a rodeo to Russia soon. The fabulous quarter of a million dollar home the couple shared in Sarasota has been sold. . . BENTLEY BROS. had their annual steak cook-out after the closing show in Cincinnati. . KAREN NYCE, married to a State Policeman, is moving to Erie from Allentown, as her husband has been transferred. . . Agent GIL MILLER has moved to California. . Word is that one Canadian circus is weeks behind in salaries. . . GEORGE HUBLER finally got rid of that old white station wagon and bought one of those new Broncos. . . The Vasquez bought a new truck. . . Dame KATE HANNEFORD, now in her 90's, spent a day with GEORGE and VICKI HANNEFORD during the Bentley Bros. run in Cincinnati. . . Everyone says she's as perky as ever. . . PATRICIA VASQUEZ broke her leg during the trampoline number on Ringling Red. . . FRANK CURRY eschewing his European jaunt temporarily to make an important two week trek around the U. S. on business. . . Marcella, of the LOS LATINOS is now an American citizen.

HERBIE WEBER, very ill for six weeks this past spring did not have double pneumonia as was thought but an almost fatal attack of "Legionnaires' Disease". The perennial wire-walker is back in action and feeling fine. Herbie has a heavy season booked including Kennywood Park, the Dallas State Fair and the Bentley Bros. fall tour. In fact he has no open time until late in Oct.

SNAPSHOTS: The MORGAN ASHTON Family have cut their risley number and are now doing a musical comedy act, in addition to MIKE's foot juggling and a comedy act. The

troupe returns to Kelly Bros. which if I am not mistaken, has already resumed its tour. . . Reports are the FLYING LANTONYS with Circus Vargas, will be playing dates for Sam T. Polack next season . . . The Hubert Castle Circus is to undergo a major face-lift apparently with major production numbers as part of the show for next season and it is being bandied about that TARZAN ZERBINI is responsible for the new format. . . Some of the acts rumored to be inked for the 1980 Moslem Temple Shrine Circus in Detroit (the same time of year by the way) are the FLYING VALENCIAS (the act being handled by SAL MURILLO) and the FLYING GAONAS (not the troupe on Ringling) Both acts do a second number; the first a very fast comedy and the second a teeterboard turn. . . JANICE and MIKE ARIA got a new bear from ALBERT RIX and they say the animal is coming along splendidly. . . For those who don't know. . . the Trenton Fair grounds, once owned by Hamid, has been sold - or so I'm told. . . BRUCE WARNER and DAVID CHABIRA clowned the Bentley Bros. date in Cincy, and clown JOHN MacKAY is working in the Bentley Promotion Offices, moonlighting between dates . . . TRUDY STRONG's Dalmation dog act is sure to be a winner - it is still very new and being polished, but the word is it's good. . . The JAMES ZOPPE RIDERS have pacted some fair dates for OLER PRODUCTIONS . . . LUCKY LADY - During the Cumberland (md) date MARCELLA (of Los Latinos) discovered a "Take A Chance on a Lucky Number" joint just in front of their trailer. In one day she won \$50. Herbie said that if the date had been a week's stand

(Continued on Page 19)

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STEBBING'S CIRCUS

... by Col. Bob 'Smiley' Corbin

I had the pleasure of catching the Stebbing Royal European Circus when it played dates here in Ohio. This is a very fine and well presented circus. Everything from the advertising, big top, rolling stock, performers, working crew, yes, the whole package is without doubt one of the finest that this writer has ever had the pleasure to see.

Francis and Lilly Stebbing are the family heads who handle a variety of chores including big show announcer and front door. Their talented sons and daughter work the elephants, the chimps and cage act. The sons are Johnny and Robert and the daughter is Carol. The daughter of Johnny and Vicki, Little Holly, is a very heart-warming feature when she and Lou the baby elephant appear in the ring.

The circus is chock-full of the very best in a variety of acts including the Baker Family, of European clowns, Houdi Ashton, Australian family act, Balentine and Pittinger (web), Nagana with the big snakes, Katura (trapeze), Karl's Poodles of Sweden, Lauri Harriet Walker, dog and pony revue and Toby "Circus" Ballentine (Stilts web and door).

The music is very capably handled by the Costillo's.

ben, penguin boy and John Kampmeier, giant.

Ward Hall is the talker, Jack Woods is the inside talker, Jerry Ross, front talker, and C. M. Christ, manager.

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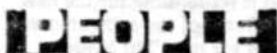
CIRCUS FILM (Continued)

Production for "Die Laughing" got started in June and will be completed late this month. The film's budget was \$4.5 million and it will be released through Warner Bros. in the summer of 1980.

PROBLEMS (Continued)

manager after an investigation into allegations that he misused fair money.

This year the fair brought in some name entertainment, which didn't draw well. For the future there are plans to do repair and paint work as well as start a campaign to get more people to attend the fair. Before they can get new buildings they'll have to take in an awful lot of money.



BOB-O the Clown is recovering at his home in Northern California after suffering a heart attack and undergoing an operation for the implantation of a Pacemaker.

Miscellaneous

Franzen Bros. Circus played the fair at Genesee, Mich., on Aug. 14-19.

The Kool Aid Circus reportedly is at the fair in Des Moines, Iowa, thru Aug. 26th.

The Blackstone Magic Show cancelled its scheduled dates in both San Rafael and Sacramento, Calif. this month.

Performers appearing with the Hall & Christ's Side Show this season are: Cynthia Hawly and Diane Kalihi, bally girls; Billie Christy, electric act; Sharr Johnson, illusions; Little Red, fire act; John Trower, sword swallower; Bill Cole, quarter man; Fargos, knife throwing; Emmett the Turtle Man; Dick Bris

sawdust trail

... by M. L. DUPONT

To my readers, I hope they will forgive me for not having had my column in CR during the past few issues. The wife has been under the weather, as have I, plus the death of two relatives. Also I had some contracts to honor that kept me away from my typewriter and home.

In the meantime news has been building up and I hope to have it all caught up with soon. To those of you who have written may I say "thank you" for your kind thoughts and wishes.

A recent phone call from John 'Gopher' Davenport of Jackson, Miss. is having good business. He is a single Wonders of the World performer in a spot in Wyo. I wish to see him and the late...

Go... 6th birthday... that he has really... business, he is... owners of a circus on the... day. He states business is good and the program has been strengthened. He still uses the one ring format, has added Lawrence Grant with 10 cats. He also added two elephants to the herd, bringing the total now to 10 and he is negotiating for two more.

He even talked a retired agent out of his home, sending him out to book dates for the show. They now use the phones about 70% of the time, with Carl Albright in charge and Max Tolivar working ahead as Promotion Director.

They've had two wrecks, lost a cage and concession truck, but they were replaced shortly afterwards. One driver suffered injuries and was hospitalized, but has now rejoined the show.

My thanks to Harold Causey who drove nearly 400 miles round trip to visit me while working the Zacchini produced Shrine Circus in July. Harold brought me an RBBB Blue Unit program, which he saw in the Super Dome.

It has come by good authority that

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Sam Polack has signed Jackson, Miss. for 1980. His date in Shreveport was very successful and the Sunday performance was SRO. It was an excellent show and my regrets to those folks for not getting a review into CR. Meantime it has been learned that Eddie Zacchini's Monroe, La., show was a big success and has now been signed for 1980.

We've just learned that Kay Rosaire lost four of her five lions when the cats were being wormed. It leaves her with only one lion and she will have to train more to replace them. We also understand that the Carden-Johnson elephants had been grazing in a field which had been freshly sprayed

with chemicals just before they died and it was not in Louisiana as was reported in one paper.

One of the highlights of the Zacchini Show at Monroe was the cat act presented by Eddie Schmitt. It's a good act and look for great things from this trainer.

Dime Wilson headed up clown alley in the show. In addition to Eddie the alley included his wife, Connie, his grandson, DoDo the Clown and Little Doe. It was nice to work with Dime. I first met him on the Sparks show in 1947 and remember when he used to do one of the best table rock acts in the business.

(Continued on Page 19)

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REPORT

The Happytime Circus which is currently playing fairs in California, will be playing out-of-state fairs, shopping centers and promotional dates as the year progresses.

The show presents a sparkling appearance with its blue top and brand new orange and yellow sidewall, Both the seats and poles match this color combination.

The circus carries a large number of animals and moves on two straightbed trucks and one trailer. Each unit is white with red and yellow lettering.

This year's program features Happy the Clown as announcer/ringmaster, plus, trained dogs, balloon animals, The Bickmores, risley, Coco the clown, pony and dog, Unicycle, the circus monkey, fun elephant, Happy and a pony drill, The Acro-Bits, on aerial ladder, Fluffy the high dive dog. A single trapeze number is also included in some performances.

Show Report

SHOW VISITS . . .

. . . . by Allan Babcock

The writer visited Carson & Barnes Circus at Olney, Ill., on June 23rd, where the circus drew a big crowd in the afternoon and a half house for the night performance.

Incidentally, Olney is the city that is famous for its white squirrels and most of them were out, sitting and

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watching the circus activity.

At Jerseyville, Ill., on June 25th there was a problem with children shooting off fire crackers on the show lot. Fortunately, none of the animals ran, but it was obvious they were plenty nervous.

Dorey's grand-daughter Christie rode an elephant in spec for the first time. Prior to this she had appeared as a flower girl in the spec production.

Visitors at various show lots were: Bob Phebus, Merle Pepper, R. J. Richter, Bill and Eddie Backstein, Mike Sorril and John R. W. Poore (Johnny Swaypole).

On July 16th, the wife and I went to the Circus World Museum and to see Tommy Bartlett's Water Show at Wisconsin Dells. Both are good

shows and the band at CWM really adds to the program. Ethel continues to play the calliope there.

The TNT & Royal Olympic Circus played a brand new enclosed shopping mall here at Decatur, Ill., the week of July 25-29. Both spectators and merchants were happy with the show.

Their program featured: Earl Tegge, announcer; Carlos Obano and Brenda Galloway, perch pole; The Patricks, juggling; Grinn & Barrett, comedy trapeze; Tim Tegge, clown and drummer and Louise Tegge, organist.

Visitors here were Wayne and Carol Wright and Norman Schuler.



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REPORT

A feature unit on the Butler Shows midway this season is the John A. Strong, Jr.'s old-time Circus Side Show. The unit travels on one truck and the show is housed under a red and white top (30x60 - square end) with matching sidewalls. The tent and equipment was acquired from Wally Ross, while some of the special effects were purchased from Ed Russell.

In addition to its six banners the show has a bally platform and two ticket booths. Scott McAnnell and John, Jr., alternate as talkers outdoors and inside the top.

The show features: Baby Lulu, fat

IN MEMORIAM

DAVID BEAVER, midget clown with Circus Vargas early this season, was reportedly drowned in Oregon late last month. He had left the circus some time ago to pursue other work.

PAUL DE BAETS (Polly Benton) (82) a Belgian musical clown, died in Europe on Feb. 2nd. During World War I he toured with Ringling-Barnum doing

girl; Jodie Silvers, the rubber girl; Max Silvers, human pincushion; T. W. White, Mr. Indestructible; John Jr., sword swallower and fire eater, plus the Electric Lady, The Girl who Walks on Glass, Blade Box, Egyptian Mummy and a huge 20 ft. long snake

a ladder balancing act with a partner. He later toured South America and Europe, working as a musical clown. He had been retired since 1962.

E. H. (Harder) JONSSON (67) an animal trainer and circus ringmaster, died recently in England. Born in Sweden, he and his sister, Inge, were raised in Berlin where they were taught circus arts. He was an animal trainer and a ringmaster on many European shows and last worked for the Billy Smart Circus and at Windsor Animal Park.

RALPH LARION and PERCY SMOCK, west coast magicians, died recently (no further details were available at press time).



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HOLIDAY IN MAGICLAND

... by Rob Jensen

Popular circus performer, illusionist Mike Martin is busy touring his Magic and Variety Revue "Holiday In Magicland" in the southeastern area. Sponsored by civic, fire or police auspices, Martin's show offers two hours of fine family-aimed entertainment in a beautiful package.

Four lovely young ladies, the Selden Sisters of Dayton, Ohio, are featured throughout the show, doubling in the two spectacular production numbers which highlight the halves of the performance and presenting their own turns with a lively 4 person juggling act and a classy trained poodle number. These young performers, all in their late teens, combine charm and talent seldom seen in performers of their ages.

Completing the non-magic section of the show, is the delightful trained chimp act presented by Bob Kirby. These simians are a real crowd pleaser, for young and old alike. Kirby also features his young male Indian elephant, Burma, in a solo spot in the show and the first act closer "The Vanishing Elephant" illusion.

Tying the performance together is the excellent three piece band assembled by Martin from experienced show musicians now living in Florida. Featuring Paul Deal on organ, Jack Bates on trumpet and Bob Varner on drums, these three gentlemen play a well rounded bag of music: old standards, show and pop tunes, and the contemporary beat of the disco music for the production numbers.

Along with the trained chimps, dogs and elephant presented in the show, Martin's own private menagerie includes dozens of white and colored doves, South American parrots and Macaws, countless rabbits, several ducks and chickens and Midnite the feature attraction in the "Girl to Leopard" presentation.

Illusions featured include: the classic Sawing A Lady in Half, Girl from Nowhere (Crystal Casket), Sword

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Cabinet or Temple, Mis-Made Maid, Sword Suspension, Substitution Trunk, Production of Four Chorus Girls, plus the already mentioned Vanishing Elephant and Girl to Leopard. Various other smaller effects are seen to the amazement of the audience, and Martin's catch phrase and opening sums it all up - "The more you look, the less you see!" Mike is no stranger to circus fans all over, for he has been seen on midways of Beatty-Cole, Sells & Gray, King Bros, Hoxie Bros. and many others as Side Show manager plus big top performer with his illusions and as ringmaster/performance director.

This season's tour will run into late October with dates in Florida, the Carolinas, Mississippi and Louisiana. Experiencing some problems with the gas situation, Martin and his advance crew, headed by Don Adams, careful routing has counted for increased ability to play all the projected dates. Sponsors at various spots along the route have expressed their satisfaction with the show and have praised Martin's showmanship and audience pleasing abilities. Many repeat dates have been signed for next year, and the troupe is looking forward to a tour of some 35 weeks or more.

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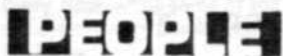
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MANZINI, escape artist, was in Hollywood, Calif., on Aug. 5th to tape a new Guinness Book of World Records show for NBC-TV. The program will be aired in September.

WOBBLES the Clown worked a fair in Oregon early this month, which included a Clown Contest in conjunction with Pepsi Cola Day at the Fair.

LILLI and SVEND KRISTENSEN visited EMMETT and NANCY KELLY, Jr. at Nancy's mother's farm in Dunkirk, Ind., before jumping into the fair at Louisville. Enroute from California they stopped at Davis where one leopard underwent an operation at the University of California Veter-

inary School.

KRESKIN, the mentalist, was featured on the Mike Douglas TV Show on Aug. 7th.

COL. BOB 'Smiley' CORBIN is working the Kentucky State Fair as official greeter and with his calliope.

KARIN DAVIS writes the Magic Lantern Theatre at Montreal is closed. It used to be a place for acts to work, and of course also showed movies.

TEX MAYNARD visited the Great American Circus at Endicott, NY where he played both shows with his drums. He will be with the Hanneford Family Circus at Owego, NY, the week of Aug. 30th.

Mr. and Mrs. ADEN W. LOWRY, of Sedan, Kans., PATRICK and MELISSA BURDEN, Independence, attended the Hubert Castle Circus at Joplin (Mo). They visited with the ALTON JONES' formerly of Joplin who returned to see the circus, and also visited with BOB DUNHAM.

DR. EDDIE DAWES, of Hull, Eng., prominent international magician, was honored at a gathering in Lans-

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ing, Mich. recently. JAMES B. AL-FREDSON, editor of "Magical" and his wife PAT hosted the affair. Guests included ROBERT and ELAINE LUND of the American Museum of Magic.

Miscellaneous

Members of the Wenatchee Youth Circus visited Circus Vargas early in the month. In September they will visit RBBB in Seattle.

RBBB's ads for its engagement at Wichita, Kans., state "Only Kansas Appearance - First time in 29 years" Prices are set at \$4.50, \$5.50 and \$6.50.

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SPECIAL

Two runaway elephants are back with Circus Gatini after spending two days of running about the countryside.

The runaway took place at Shelburne (NS) on July 24th after the animals had completed their performance in the circus ring.

Instead of going straight ahead and out the tent they turned left, then ran for the main gate. The spectators thought it was part of the routine, but the circus folks knew differently and took out after them.

Del Ritta and Margaret, part of the Pinson Flying Elephant Act, munched through several gardens before dashing off into the woods.

For two days they hid out and then

were discovered only because they were still wearing their rhinestone headpieces, which glittered in the sun. A truck was driven up nearby and with the help of Kossie, the two wayward animals were put into the show truck and returned to the circus lot. They were given two weeks off from performing, while Rosie went on to perform a solo number.

POPO

POPO the Clown celebrated his 79th birthday with a special "Magic Day" at Children's Fairyland Park in Oakland, Calif., on 4th. Many magicians took part in the event, including COTTON CANDY (Bill Williams).

DAVID "Sheriff" CAESAR, a former booking agent, is currently serving as the Backdoor Guard for RBBB's Red Unit.

RANDY RUNYON was featured with the Dante Magic Show at the fair in Jackson, Oregon, late last month.

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By Crane



Family Affair

... by Jim Parker

Gatti Productions, Inc., producers of the American Continental Circus and the Canadian International Circus, is truly a family affair. Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Gatti have been in the circus business since 1957, and through their efforts and those of their children, have become the major West Coast Circus using sponsors such as Firemen, Shrine, Police, Elks, etc. Mr. Gatti underwent open heart surgery five years ago and has "retired" to the role of advisor and spends most of his time in his Palm Springs residence. However, the retired Air Force Major continues to keep in daily contact with his show and often arrives on the lot to spend weeks at a time traveling with the circus.

His wife, Doris, brings forth her artistic talents by creating the colorful and unusual wardrobe worn by the kinkers in the show's spec and aerial production numbers. Mrs. Gatti travels with the show, constantly keeping an eye on the wardrobe department, ensuring that the wardrobe is kept immaculate and in good repair. Her winter months are kept busy designing and making new wardrobe for the show as well as being an artist and dabbling with oil paintings.

Their oldest daughter, Carole Patti Palanca, maintains the home office in Orange, Calif., and through her the vast administrative tasks are accomplished. Routes, contracts, correspondence, programs, scheduling and a myriad of telephoning consumes her daily routine as she becomes the pulse of the communications center for the circus. Carole is officially listed as Secretary, Treasurer which certainly fails to cover her varied and time consuming duties "behind-the-scenes." In addition to being totally involved with the circus, she is an ardent animal lover and also a well known breeder of Appalossa horses with her Yaqi Hideout being a National and a World Champion Appaloosa. However, her son, Matt, is the apple of her eye!

The "nitty-gritty" of running a circus on a daily basis falls to Patricia Gatti Colquhoun who constantly travels on the road with the show. A unique position for a woman, Patti is no ordinary gal and can and does hold her own with any male counterpart in the business. Years of experience has taught her not only to be a good manager, but also Patti deals directly with the sponsors as well as show personnel. Daily gripes, breakdowns, accidents and quarrels are all problems connected with this business and Patti is never one to flinch or back away and has gained the reputation of being a firm but fair "boss" and is much respected in the circus world.

The Gattis are known for presenting a clean, neat circus and there is not a detail that does not escape Patti in regards to personnel appearances both for the kinkers and animals as her standards are high, and wardrobe, animals, trappings, props, etc., are expected to be clean and neat.

Her Canadian-born husband, Ron, often travels ahead of the show as he is one of the show's major promotion managers and acts as advance representative for the circus. Their two year old daughter, Angela, travels with her mother on the road, and like all babies, is the center of attraction in the backyard.

The Gatti Productions' season normally begins about the second week in March and runs through the second week in October, usually with one week's layoff the first of August. This gives them approximately a 30 week season.

The American Continental Circus and the Canadian International Circus are well balanced shows with the great names of circusdom enrolled through the years. Inasmuch as the whole family are animal lovers there certainly is plenty of stock on the show, which is a credit to the circus world.

The make-up of the 1979 edition of the circus performance consists of: "Land of Storybook Animals" spec;

Marcan the Magnificent, lions; Clown Washday; Miss Yoshi, hair hang; Ken Willer, one finger stand; Lemke's College of Chimps; The Young Duo, aerial cradle; Miss Martham contortion; Miss Heidi, contortion; the Wilton Duo, motorcycle on high wire; The Hargitas, unsupported ladders and juggling; Otto Berosini, camels and ponies; Clown boxing match; Aerial Ballet featuring the Fara-Mia Duo; Intermission; Evita, single trapeze; Aston, single trapeze; The Suarez Riding Troupe; Valentino, high wire; The Willetty's, balancing; Congo, Almost Human Gorilla; the Clowns; The Charles Troupe, teeterboard; The Flying Wilastons; American Continental Circus Elephants, presented by Gary Johnson.

Clown Alley consists of: Zapata, producing clown, Johnny Peers and Bob Owens.

The Circus Band is directed by J. Herb Miller and includes Wilma and Jack Rench and Denis Sherman.

The big show announcer, vocalist and ringmaster is John Miller.

Ozzie Martin heads the concession department and Jeanne Vanderbosch is business coordinator. Certified Public Accountants are Harmon & Co., and Advance Man is Harry Ellis. Jim Parker is assistant to Carole Gatti Palanca in the home office.

The Circus Fans Association, The Circus Model Builders and the Circus Historical Society, as well as the Windjammers Unlimited are all given a plug on the back page of the show program book.

PEOPLE

MARGUERITE MICHELE and her husband MIGUEL AYALA, low wire act, will return to the RBBB Red Unit for the 1980 season.

THE GREAT BRUNO, break-away sway pole act, will be working at Pittsburgh's Kennywood Park Aug. 14th thru Sept. 3rd.



CIRCUS VARGAS . . .

. . . by Mike Sporrer

There is no doubt but that 1979 is proving to be one of the best years for circuses in Seattle, since 1949. That year a total of four shows hit town - Clyde Beatty, Ringling-Bar-num, Cole Bros. and Polack's Western Unit. The Polack show day and dated Cole and Ringling, and even had "Wait" paper out against the Ringling show.

This year is proving to be another great year, with Hubert Castle, the American Continental, Circus Vargas and soon Ringling Red. Then by my count Denver, Colo., will be having 6 shows this year.

Circus Vargas reported business was spotty with some areas down due to the gas shortage. Business was quite good during their 11 day run in the Seattle area.

A nice crowd was on hand for the arrival and set-up at Tukwila, Wash.

on July 20th. They played the date July 20-24. The Pizza Hut and local media promoted the show, using elephant races with many good TV photos resulting. Don Duncan did a nice story in the Seattle Times and all TV stations were on hand to cover the set-up, and newspaper ads appeared almost daily. Discount tickets helped to increase crowds.

The show moved into Seattle for a July 25-30 run. The Jack Bell Tent CFA served donuts, cookies, coffee and lemonade to performers and workmen during the July 26th performance.

Since last year several changes have taken place. The show purchased a new royal blue big top and marquee from Leaf Tent & Sail. Seating has been rebuilt with safety in mind. New back and side railings have been installed. The seat trailer carried last year has been dropped, a new ringmaster platform, with lights was built.

The midway is much the same with 12 elephants, 25 horses, a zebra and

other animals making up the menagerie. A new Moon Bounce was purchased, while the 6 pony sweep, elephant rides, concession trailer and rest room trailer are still there.

Again this year they have a great program book selling for \$1.00 and designed by Bill Biggerstaff. The 2 hour 10 minute program is fast-paced and runs smoothly. They have some of the best lighting of any of the tented shows. Most outstanding is the disco lighting effect for the Tangier Troupe of tumblers.

The Front Door personnel and the prop men wear new tailored jackets, replacing the orange jackets used last year.

The program featured: Color Book Pitch; National Anthem; Opening Overture; Joseph Pon, ringmaster; Spec "Circus on Parade"; Harry Thomas, tigers (12); The Burkett's, hanging perch; The Rolls Duo, aerial cradle; Clowns; The Antoinnes, one finger stand; Don McLennon

(Continued on Page 18)

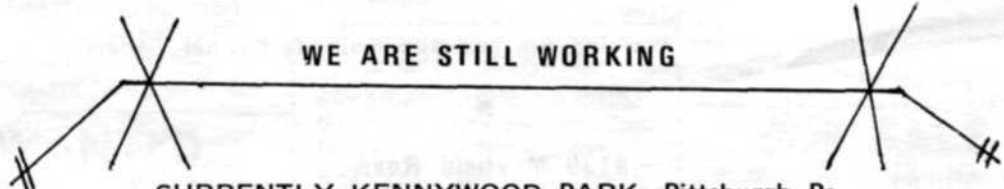
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BIG JOHN STRONG'S CIRCUS

... by Ron Sanford

This writer visited the Big John Strong Circus at Abilene, Texas, on July 29th. When I got to the lot everything was just about all in place, but it had rained before I got there, with a strong wind. However, Wally Wallentin had the big top up and kept it from being blown down.

The circus program ran something like this: Introduction of Big John, Fess Reynolds and his Brahma Bull liberty act, The Brauns, rope spinning and whips, Sparky and his trained giraffe, also his floating cane, Bill Schrieber and Sandy Strong, two rings of dogs, Sandy and her trained Disco Birds, Big John and Arthur, the Macaw, Sparky and Roulette, wash day, The Kennington Sisters (Denise and Chris), swinging ladders, Bill Schrieber, pony drill, Nicole Strong, web and dressage, Amazing Swami, fire

Miscellaneous

"Geo" is the name of a new publication just introduced to the North American magazine market, although it has been prominent under the same title for a number of years in Europe.

In the August issue (Volume One), just released, the magazine devotes 21 pages, including 21 full color photographs of the Stebbing Royal European Circus.

eating and sword swallowing, Fess Reynolds and Frosty, a January type act, Ron Pace and Chris with Neena the elephant, Chris Kennington, web, Sparky runs the side show, and Fess Reynolds and Ron Pace offer rides on their animals before and after the show program.

Visitors seen on the lot include John Thiele and Jim McRoberts, from Topeka, Kansas.

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CIRCUS VARGAS (Continued)

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SAWDUST TRAIL (Cont'd)

Bill Boren the ringmaster did his usually fine job. While speaking of ringmasters I must compliment Al Dawley for the excellent way he helped the Shriners in Shreveport move their concessions. I understand in talking with them at the end of the show that this year was the best yet, mainly due to the help given them by Al.

Word reaching this writer is that Ted Bowman has been traveling with Carson & Barnes. We hope this means Ted has recovered from his heart condition. Also understand that C&B did real good at Indinole, Ind. Promotion was excellent and a birthday party was held for 'Barbara' the wandering elephant.

The area in which several tent shows are traveling, in the mid-west states, has been hit by hard rains and winds, and one show lost their top in a blow down. We heard it was completely destroyed. Isn't it funny how it will never rain until a tent circus comes to town?

A recent page in White Tops shows they are having mail problems as are several publications. It seems nothing short of First Class gets any attention these days. Aren't you glad that CR comes to you via First Class Mail?

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REPORT

CMB MEET . . . by Bill Slenker

The James A. Bailey Ring No. 35, Allentown, Pa., of the CMB held their gathering at Dorney Park on July 26-29.

The affair is held every two years. This year 120 model builders were present, with their circuses displayed in the Castle Garden ballrooms at the park. The participants came from New England, Florida, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and one from Salem, Oregon.

Special events included clown make-up, wood carving demonstrations and old circus movies. Chappie Fox was the main speaker at the dinner on Friday, and Carla Wallenda performed at the park several times each day.

date at Taylor, Mich., played by M&M was a real success. Wm. (Boom Boom) Browning had the band, while the ringmaster was Al Dawley, with Jimmy Douglas as Equestrian Director. Among the acts were the Luvas daughters, who are really up and coming stars.

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While I am writing about Dorney Park I will include this bit of information. The Deitch brothers have their animals here. They are the fellows who took care of the Ringling animals when the show went off the road, and then displayed them only at Madison Square Garden.

He tells me this year will just about wind up his traveling zoo. The high cost of transportation, animal food and the rigid restrictions by state and federal governments will put an end to his operation. He will, however, continue to breed animals at his Florida animal farm.

PEOPLE

ADEN LOWRY and daughter LOY-
ETTE BURDEN displayed doll houses at the Chautauqua Co. Fair at Sedan, Kans., on Aug. 1-4.

BILLY BARTON (Cont'd)

she'd have cleaned the guy out. Marcella also wins heavily at Bingo. But in Las Vegas the odds must be against her. Everything she wins during the season she blows at the Desert Spa!

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