



4th Year

October 20, 1975

Number 42

## Soviet Show to Tour U.S.

Starting early next month the Soviet Circus, of Moscow, will make a tour of East coast cities of the United States. Although complete details were not available at press time the show is expected to feature some of the outstanding Russian acts developed in the circus schools of that country. It is not immediately known if the Soviet Circus will bring along some of their unusual animal features, there will, however, be horse acts and many top performers.

The tour, which starts at Boston on Nov. 7th, will include visits to Greensboro, N.C.; Birmingham, Ala.; Atlanta, Ga.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Washington, DC; Philadelphia, Pa.; New York, N.Y.; New Haven, Conn.; Cincinnati, Ohio; Chicago, Ill.; Binghampton, N.Y.; and Nassau, L.I.

For additional details concerning the Soviet Circus and its features watch future issues of Circus Report. The show's route will appear regularly in the weekly route section.

### A Muddy Lot

Unusually early heavy rain storms had virtually turned the ground into a quagmire before the Wallace & Rogers Circus arrived for their two day stand at Rhonart Park (Calif.) on Oct. 11-12. Despite all the problems the show encountered attendance was good at all three shows, with enthusiastic audiences.

Each piece of equipment had to be inched onto the lot by local tow trucks and long lines.

(Continued on Page 13)

## Show Acts

A two week circus program at the Morristown (N.J.) Mall featured several well-known circus performers and acts.

### 1st Week -

Spiffindifferus - clown  
 Billy Earl - vent/announcer  
 Miss Delli - tightwire  
 Miss Olga - revolving trapeze  
 Bonnie & Clyde - comedy/music  
 Nino Santos - juggling  
 Ethel Joyce - greyhounds

### 2nd Week -

Yanos & Co. - dogs and chimps  
 Miss Gina's Royal leopards  
 Billy Earl - vent/announcer  
 The Alleycats - clowns  
 Navaro Duo - sword balance  
 Royal Hungarian Troupe - acro

## '76 Plans

"Our brief tour in 1975 was a good one," says Andy Swan of the Swan Bros. Circus. "We played five fairs this year and hope to increase that to ten for 1976, as well as playing independent dates under canvas."

The show has a 45x60 ft bale ring big top, with seating for some 800 people. The side show tent is 18x30 ft.

Currently the show owners are busy designing a backdrop for one side of the big top, which will include several circus scenes. Plans are also being completed for an enlarged side show performance.

## PEOPLE

CHERIE BARNES, who recently worked with the Rudy Bros. Circus, is back at school in Miami (Fla.) She is the daughter of GAYLE and HAROLD BARNES.

THE WILLIAMS and their dogs recently left the Beatty-Cole Circus to fulfill other engagements.

SYLVESTER and BARBARA BRAUN and VIRGINIA FENTON worked an Oct. 19th date at Ontario, Calif for AL and JULIA KAYDA.

RICHARD D'CLOWN works shopping centers in Southern California on a regular basis. He features his balloon animals and trained monkey.

DICK and CONNIE GRIFFITH had their dressage horses at the recent Palmdale (Calif.) Fiesta. The event was attended by several Mexican dignitaries.

DOLORES FRAZZINI, dancer, actress and singer, has been appointed ringmaster at Circus Circus in Las Vegas, Nev.

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## Fall Kills Performer

A worn out pole has been blamed for the death of Lester John Parker - The Great Parker - which took place at the opening performance of the fair in Florence, S. C., on Oct. 6th. The 45 year old Parker was atop his sway pole, ready to finish up his act, when the pole broke. Parker fell 75 feet to the ground and the top half of the heavy pole fell across him.

"He was just finishing up his act," said Florence County Sheriff William C. Barnes. "He was on a sway pole, and it just separated where it was joined together. He fell about 75 feet and was dead on arrival at the hospital."

## PEOPLE

HAL HAVILAND has joined the Circus Vargas with his dogs and ponies.

BOB WELZ, former announcer on American Cont'l Circus, has joined Ice Capades where he is featured as a juggler.

DENYSE and DEWAYNE PITTENGER are featured on the Oct. 8th front page of the Sarasota (Fla.) Herald-Tribune with their aerial ladder act.

GLENN HARRISON, Sec.-Treas. of the Paul Eagles Circus Luncheon Club, and his wife, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

MISCHU, RBBB midget, was recently featured in a UPI photo release with SANDRA ALLEN, the world's tallest woman.

CAROL STEBBING, of the Royal European Circus, was featured in a recent UPI release as she fed milk to three baby tigers.

Other witnesses said the top part of the pole "shot down on him like an arrow and crushed." A close friend and fellow performer said the "pole drove him into the ground."

Parker performed atop a 75 foot sway pole, made up of two sections which were screwed together. It was these screw threads that were described as worn and were said to have given away.

Parker called the trick the "Breakaway for Life." He had announced he would retire at the end of the year and turn the act over to his son in January.

His son, Jody, along with Parker's wife and two daughters witnessed the fatal accident along with some 800 to 1,000 persons in the grandstand.

JOHN HURDLE, curator of The Ringling Museum of the Circus reports shortages and delays are causing a late opening of the new museum building. It is now scheduled for early 1976.

# ROUTES

Amer. Cont'l Circus  
Oct. 20 Globe, Ariz.  
21-22 Tucson

Beatty-Cole Circus  
Oct. 20 Lafayette, La.  
21 New Iberia  
22 Morgan City  
23 Houma  
24-26 New Orleans  
27 Hattiesburg, Miss

Buffalo Bill Carson Show  
Oct. 25 Memphis, Tenn.

Hubert Castle Circus  
Oct. 20 Farmington, N.M.  
22 Gallup  
24 Yuma, Ariz.  
26-28 Phoenix

Circus Vargas  
Oct 21-22 Huntsville, Ala  
24-27 Louisville, Ky

Clyde Bros. Circus  
Oct 23-26 Wichita, Kans.

Franzen Bros. Circus  
Oct. 18 Wellsville, Kans.

Hanneford Family Circus  
Oct 21-23 Pine Bluff, Ark.  
24-25 Winnfield, La.  
27 Winnsboro, Tex.

Kaye Cont'l Circus  
Oct 22-26 Kansas City, Mo

King Bros. Circus  
Oct 20 Talladega, Ala  
21 Sylacauga  
22 Longdale  
-- End of Season --

La Torres Animals  
Oct 23-Nov 2 Baton Rouge, La

Pickle Family Circus  
Oct 18-19 San Bruno, Cal.

Polack Bros. Circus  
Oct 25-26 Richmond, Va.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit  
Oct 22-26 Nashville, Tenn

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
to Oct 27 Chicago, Ill.

Sells & Gray Circus  
Oct. 20 Cleveland, Miss.  
21 Batesville  
22 Senatobia  
23 Water Valley  
24 Booneville  
25 New Albany  
26 Houston  
27 Starkville

John Strong Circus  
Oct 20 Palmdale, Calif.  
21 Filmore  
22 Thousand Oaks  
23 Hacienda Heights

John Strong Circus (Cont'd)  
Oct. 24 Redlands, Calif.  
25 Yucaipa  
26-27 San Bernardino

.... OTHER ROUTES .....

American Freedom Train  
Oct. 20 Spokane, Wash.  
24 Seattle

Century 21 Shows - Blue  
Oct 24-Nov 1 Mobile, Ala.

Century 21 Shows - Red  
Oct 24-Nov 1 Mobile, Ala.

Chinese Acrobats of Taiwan  
Oct. 21 Springfield, Mass  
23-26 Los Angeles, Cal.

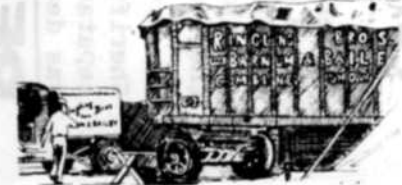
James H. Drew Shows  
Oct 20-25 Dublin, Ga.

Grand Nationals  
Oct 24-Nov 2 San Fran, Cal

Kramien's Magic Capades  
Oct. 27 Spokane, Wash.

Longhorn Rodeo  
Oct 23-26 Philadelphia, Pa

Sailboat Show  
Oct 24-Nov 4 Lg. Beach, Ca.



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# Mix Book Published

Publication of the Darryl Poicsan novel "Tom Mix Died For Your Sins" was recently announced by Delacorte Press. The hard-bound volume is being placed on bookstore shelves this month and sells for \$8.95.

This is an authentic biography covering Mix's life as a star of films and the circus world. It has some interesting background information on Miller Bros. 101 Ranch Wild West Show, and covers the period that Mix toured with the Sells Floto Circus and Ringling's connection with the show.

The author tells how Mix joined up with the Sam B. Dill Circus in 1934 and his purchase of the show when Dill died in 1935. Retitled the Tom Mix Circus, the show was built into one of the largest truck shows on the road until its financial disaster in late 1938.

Some interesting events are recounted during Mix's show years, including the infamous "Hey Rube" with towners as the result of a shakedown when the circus played Butte, Montana in 1935. It is a book all circus people and fans will want, and it includes many photographs.

Ponicsan, noted for his screenplays "The Last Detail" and "Cinderella Liberty", which were "blockbuster" movies last year, has completed the screen version of his book and it will be filmed by 20th Century Fox. The film will be a high budget movie and will feature James Caan as Tom Mix, plus star Jack Nicholson.

Ponicsan gives credits in his book to F. Beverly Kelley, a

former RBBB publicity chief; Mille Ward, former aerialist; Ernestine Clarke, circus performer; Eddie Howe, former RBBB press agent; Sid Kellner and his George Matthews Circus; Yakima Canutt; Duke Lee; and many other show folks and fans, as well as Amusement Business and the Circus World Museum.

Eddie Howe's late famed showman father, M. D. "Doc" Howe, was Mix's agent/mgr in the 1930's and Eddie in his early teens, spent summer vacations as a candy butcher on the Tom Mix Circus before going onto the Barnes show, Hagenbeck-Wallace, Cole Bros. and Ringling-Barnum, where he became a press agent under Bev Kelley. Howe assisted Ponicsan with much of the research for the circus portions of the Mix story.

## PEOPLE

ABE GOLDSTEIN, clown, celebrated his 80th birthday on Oct. 14th, while performing with the Dr. Pepper Circus at Dallas, Tex

# CIRCUS SENTINEL

... by BILLY BARTON

Persistent rumors reach this reporter that PETE CRISTIANI and DORY MILLER are putting out a new tenter in '76. The top, it is said, comes from the Circus World Museum in Baraboo.....JIMMY HERRINGTON is going to try it again, this time in Venezuela.....NED THOTH debuts his Magic Show, featuring BARONESS VON FROST on Oct. 31st.

MILT ROBBINS is currently operating a WARD HALL side show unit at Circus World. In addition to the WOODCOCKS and the CORONAS, JACK JOYCE and THE GREAT MANCINI are also at the Ringling Tourist Spot.....SAM and GEN POLACK off to Topeka to visit son, SAMMY.

Queen Mother BETTY ELSCALANTE flies the friendly skies periodically to wave her magic wand over one and all on the RBBB units.....Glamorous foot manipulator LONI VAN VOORDEN upside-downs on Vargas in '76. Ditto luscious daughter BARBARA and MISS LILLIANNE who will flank the Dutch Charmer in the end rings.....Gal-lovely GALA SHAWN, back in the USA, and recently on a Rudy mid-western date for TOMMY BENTLEY.

GEORGE HUBLER getting it together for next season. If you have never seen a Hubler program beg, borrow or steal one, they are collector's items....Maryce Begary still doing that great free handstand on the single trap.....MARQUEEN SCHLARBAUM wife of bandmaster, CHARLES (with three units out), reports her Private School, The Key Aca-

demy, is doing SRO in its second season.

ESQUEDAS, bike act, to Circus Circus come January....TORREANI's Blessed Event to Center Ring in November. They'll be with Beatty-Cole.....Didyaknow BILL and TRUDY STRONG are proud new parents? They're the Quasars now.

LISA STEWART (half of the Commancheros) bubbling up over prospects of playing her hometown of Detroit with the Shrine Circus.

Canadian producer IAN GARDEN shasaamed his magic show into New York State as the Hanneford Circus galloped into Canada. Talk about crossing wires.

Tenters, large and small, are starting to pack it in for the year. Look for one cataclysmic shake-up in the front end of one of them, maybe a changing hands of a formidable title, and certainly the re-location of a couple of great showmen.

Hey, whatever happened to those good days...when it was two shows a day and three shows ONLY on Saturday (which we felt we'd NEVER live thru).

Ain't circus FUN!....

# Merry-Go-Round

ABILENE, Kan. (AP) — A fund-raising drive is under way to return an antique, hand-carved merry-go-round to the city where it was built about the turn of the century.

A group known simply as the Carousel Committee is seeking to raise \$15,000 in money, services and donations of equipment to purchase and return to Abilene a steam-powered carousel built by the C. W. Parker Amusement Co.

The carousel is now in storage at Riverton, Wyo., but had been used at a drive-in theater there until about three years ago.

Vi Jones, co-chairman of the committee, said the 24 brightly

colored horses and four chariots are in excellent condition but added that some restoration work will be required.

Unlike modern merry-go-rounds — which have horses mounted on poles that are pulled up and down by overhead mechanism — the horses and chariots on the antique carousel are mounted on a platform which revolves on a track. As the platform revolves, the horses rock.

The Dickinson County Historical Society agreed to accept donations for the carousel and display it outside its museum. Mrs. Jones said the goal is to have the machine

set up and running in time for the July 4, 1976 bicentennial celebration.

Mrs. Jones said the carousel in Wyoming is believed to be the oldest of three remaining carousels built at the Parker company.

The company was founded by Charles W. Parker, who started by buying a small merry-go-round and touring central Kansas charging a nickel a ride in 1892.

Within three years, Parker had started building his own carousels, as well as the Parker Mechanical Shooting Gallery. By 1904, his shops employed about 100 men and covered four acres in southeast Abilene.

A local newspaper account at the time described Parker's factory as the only one of its kind in the world, "that is the only factory which builds organs, manufactures cars, makes pullman cars, tents, hand organs, merry-go-rounds, circus wagons, shooting galleries and every mechanical and material appliance that goes with a complete carnival institution or circus attraction ... More merry-go-rounds are made in Abilene than in any other place in the world."

The National Carousel Roundtable, a national group of antique carousel enthusiasts, contributed \$1,000 to the Abilene fund-raising drive.

## Baby Gorilla Dies

A baby gorilla born at the Woodland Park Zoo, in Seattle, Wash., about Sept. 29th, died early on Oct. 3rd of unknown causes. Officials said they will conduct an autopsy to determine the cause of the baby's death.

Zoo officials had been keeping a 24 hour watch on the baby and it's mother "Nina," who weighs 180 lbs and is 7 years old.

It was the first gorilla to be born at the Seattle Zoo and the first birth for Nina. Thus far there have been only 121 gorilla births in captivity and about 40% have died.

## Wild West Show Due in '76

A new arena show, using the Bicentennial theme, is scheduled to go on tour in 1976, according to a report from the Hetzer Theatrical Productions. The show will be a real spectacular, says Hetzer, with a cast of about 50 people and 40 horses.



Premiere performances of the Tex Maynard, Jr. Wild West Show were recently presented in Huntington, W. Va., to good reviews. Five performances were offered in three days, with a 40% capacity reported for the engagement at the local 7,200 seat Memorial Fieldhouse.

The program is a family entertainment show and in addition to Tex Maynard, Jr., featured acts include two

### In Memoriam

FREDERICK C. BRANDT (79) a long-time magician, who for 40 years traveled throughout the world with his wife, Helen, as the "Mystic Brandts." He worked for the Midland-Ross Corp., for 10 years, retiring in 1963.

Born on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (S.D.), of German and Sioux parents, he spent his childhood traveling with the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show and was given the name "Chief Little Fox." In 1905 the show played at Toledo (Ohio) and that winter his folks settled down in the city they liked. He was a friend of Annie Oakley and Frank Butler

Brandt died at Toledo on Oct. 2nd, leaving his wife, Helen as well as a son, Corwin and a sister. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1970

Indian troupes, the James M. Cole Medicine Show band, Tex Maynard, Sr., Don Anderson's White Horse Troupe, Jackie Reinhart & Co., The White Clouds, Miss Donna Marie, Jerry Raye and Hetzi, who is the show's announcer.

A nice thing about the show reports Hetzer, is that the audience relates to it right away. They cheer the hero and boo the villain.



CIRCUS REPORT will be priced at \$12.00 a year starting on Jan. 1, 1976. However, you can still order or renew your subscription at the old price (\$10.00) until that time.



The girls shown here made up the Mark Smith Riding Troupe which toured with Jimmie Wood's 101 Ranch Wild West Show. Their living unit was a first class facility with running water, showers, etc.

## PEOPLE

### GUNTHER GEBEL-WILLIAMS

purchased several young leopards from the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle (Wash) while the RBBB's Red Unit was in that city.

PHYLLIS RODGERS, clown historian, was heralded by the Sarasota Herald-Tribune for her work with the RBBB Clown College.

TIM DOODY, an RBBB clown, was seen in a recent AP photo release as he charmed several young Vietnamese refugees.

GENE McDONALD and his model circus were featured in the Oct. 9th issue of the Mercer Island (Wash.) Reporter.

THE MARQUIS CHIMPS have been added to the program at the

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Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas as a feature of the Folies Bergere.

HUGO MARQUARDT recently visited HARRY HUNT and ROY BUSH at the Hunt show winterquarters.

STEPHENSON'S DOGS have re-joined the Circus Circus Casino show at Las Vegas, Nevada.

## CFA Meet

Members and friends of the Joel E. Warner CFA Tent (Michigan) recently held an election/dinner meeting, which was attended by Elvin Bale and Jeanette Williams.

Officers for 1976 are:

Arthur Crampton - Chairman  
Dale Riker - Vice Chairman  
William Ludwig - Sect/Treasurer  
George DaDeppo - Public Relations

The group also recently attended the RBBB Red Unit and were treated to a after show backyard tour, led by Harold Ronk and Lloyd Morgan, Jr.

Attending the circus were:

Elsie and Herman Brandmiller; Marjorie and David Carpenter; Father James Challancin; Arthur Crampton; George DaDeppo; Nedra and Chuck Gonzales; Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hastings; Boots and Jim Heaton; Sharon and Blair Knaack; Aileen and Ken Kurtz; Chris Kurtz; Jeff Kurtz; Montie Newcomb; Lucile Hensey; Doris and Leo Lindgren; Lori and John Livingston; Dorothy and Bill Ludwig; Dave Ludwig; Sue Harrison; Mr. & Mrs. O'Neill; Janet and Peggy O'Neill; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Patrina; Evelyn and Dale Riker; Sally Riker; Martha and Don Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Ken Tallmadge; Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Tuholske; Joseph Wichowski; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wurdock; Mary and Bob Ungewitter; Paul Toepp; the

## A Good Tour

"Europorama enjoyed a highly success season," says showman John Winn. "It was probably our best season to date, with good crowds at every performance."

The show traveled a total of 11,000 miles, the longest tour yet undertaken by the west coast based show. The tour started in California and ended in new territory in the mid-west.

Winn says that plans are already scheduled for an even longer tour in 1976 with an expanded show program.

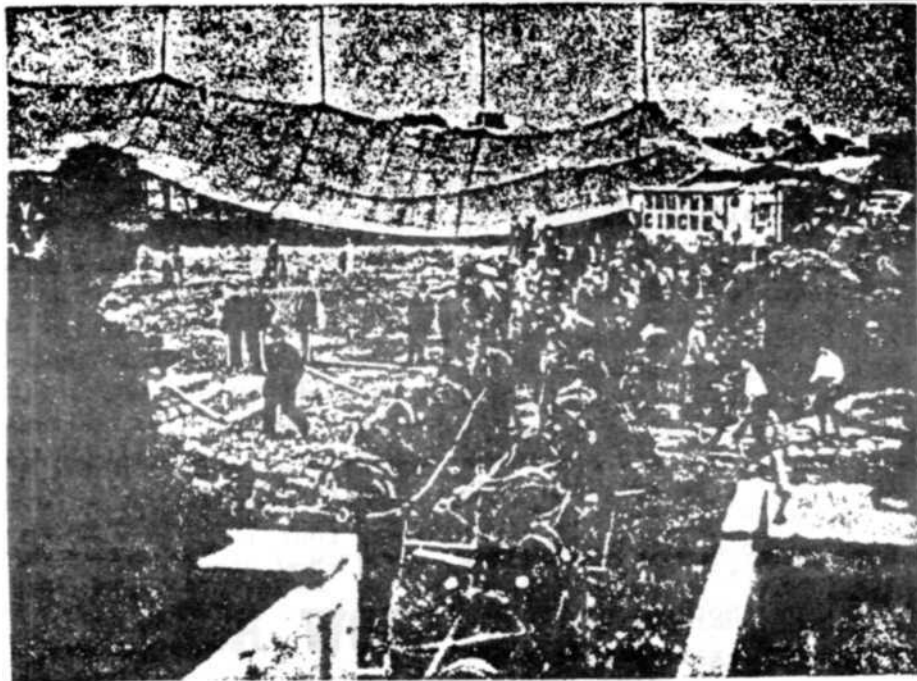
## SHOW ACTS

Acts seen working at the recent Pumpkin Festival in Chatsworth, Calif., were:

Metz Gertz - juggler  
Dr. K. Q. Lizzard - medicine show  
Bob Long - ragtime piano  
Gene Harris - magician  
Lenny Geer - trained animals  
Johnny Thunder - whips/guns  
Skeeter Vaughan - knife thrower  
Mary Ann - folk singer  
Diane Webber - belly dancer

The entertainment programs also included several rock band groups, folk music groups, Indian dancers and mimes.

Brandon Rogers family; John Kirsch; Mr. and Mrs. Roger Pitch; Randy Pitch and several other guests. ....George DaDeppo



This picture was taken on the Sells Floto Circus of 1927. The exact date and location are not remembered.

## Reservation Fees

Importers of birds must pay a \$40 fee if they wish to reserve space at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture animal import center facilities.

Federal regulations require that imported birds must pass a minimum 30 day quarantine at designated ports of entry to prevent the entry of diseases.

The fee was imposed to assure full use of limited center facilities at the required port of entry. In the past some importers have requested space and

then failed to bring the birds in at the time specified.

Fee payments will be credited toward the cost of keeping the birds during the quarantine period. If importers fail to use the space reserved for them, reservation fees will be forfeited.

The animal import centers at Clifton, N.J., Miami, Fla., and Honolulu, Hawaii, handle some imported birds. Those birds imported commercially for sale as pets are quarantined at private centers approved and supervised by the Dept. of Agriculture officials.

## Party Time

At the conclusion of the Oct. 4th performance of the Pan Americana Circus, in New York, clown Mike Naughton interrupted show owner Don Francisco's final announcement to report there "is one more act yet to come."

At that moment the band broke into "Happy Birthday" and the audience sang as the circus clowns presented Mr. Francisco with a large pink frosted cake, complete with candles. There was plenty of laughter when everyone discovered the cake was made of sponge and the frosting consisted of Ivory soap flakes.

Clown Alley was highly suspected of creating the unusual cake, with the help of Gina and the Medro twins plus Rosa Fornasari and her brothers.

As soon as the curtain was down a huge birthday spread, including a real cake, was laid out on the stage with all performers, bandsmen and stagehands hailing Mr. Don Francisco on his birthday.

Among the visitors seen backstage were: Tommy Hanneford, Iris Keppo, Billy Barton, Tiny Phillips, Leo Mascitto, the Bertinis, Jake Gibbs, Ernie Lanterman, Jim Gourley and Larry Selken.

.... Pat Bissonette

## A MUDDY LOT (Continued)

Once in place the units quietly slipped down hub-deep in the mud. At one time at least one-third of the tent was several inches under water when a small cloudburst drenched the area.

Although the sun broke through early Sunday morning (Oct. 12) rain clouds continued to drift by, dropping their contents on the circus. It was a tedious job to tear down the show and get it loaded, then finally local tow trucks were called into action and they slowly, with the use of long lines, dragged each piece of equipment off the lot and onto solid pavement.

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# THE CIRCUS KINGDOM

Our 1975 tour was one full of events, surprises and remembrances, says Rev. L. David Harris, of The Circus Kingdom. The season, he added, was "much better than last year, but not as good as we had hoped."

Circus Kingdom operates differently than other shows since it is a non-profit organization. The bulk of its funds come from grants and gifts, although paid audiences constitute a great part of the income.

The season started on May 20th at Washington, DC and ended on Aug. 31st at Boiling Springs, Pa. The show gave performances in some 88 communities -- 154 for the public and 68 for charity purposes -- hospitals, orphanages, homes for the elderly, homes for retarded children, prisons, etc.

The nation's economic problems didn't seem to affect the circus too much and the major factor as to whether a date was a good one or a poor one was dependent upon how hard the sponsor worked at his job of selling tickets. However, expenses were up with the cost of repairs, gas food and travel being well above that of last year.

Cost-wise and attendance-wise the show had its best dates in Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Kansas. However, there are obviously exceptions with numerous good dates in the East.

Every effort, says Harris, was made to route the show so it would not come in contact with other circuses. When we found we were coming into a community just ahead or right after another circus we would publicize the other show's dates and give some of our proceeds to the show's sponsor.

An outstanding date on the tour was July 10th at Columbus (Kans.) when the local Chamber of Commerce declared the day was "Merle Evans Day". Merle was a guest of the circus and even directed the band.

Another highlight was Fort Dodge where the circus band played at least 20 Karl King numbers. Mrs. King, the widow of the circus band leader and composer was a guest of the show, and the day's performances were dedicated to her.

The show's poorest dates were at Great Bend, Pa. and at Bowie, Texas, where approximately 20 people showed up for each performance. The biggest crowd was recorded at a benefit show in Indiantown Gap, Pa. where a total of 10,000 Vietnamese refugees attended the two performances.

## SHOW FOLKS

Acts appearing at the Old Chicago Mall (Ill.) for the period of Oct. 4-12 included:

Antonucci chimps; Mario Alberti; Gee Gee Engesser; Cleo; Veno Venito; Arturo Seguro; Ms. April; Saul Shafton; the Crazy Sailors; Bobby-Jane Duo; The Kelly's; Burketts Silver Sattel-lite; The Lang Family; Rosell High Wire Troupe; Tony & Chris; Ernie Johnson and Arwood's dogs.

## A GOOD SEASON

The 1975 tour of the Carden-Johnson Circus was the shows best season to date, circus officials report. Everything ran smoothly and the show had no major problems in its operation.

If there were problems during the year, says Larry Carden, it was the constantly rising cost of supplies and repairs. For example, he noted, it cost us \$6,000 for a rebuilt diesel engine for the elephant truck, and we had to trade-in the old one too. The biggest costs for a show, he added, is gasoline.

The circus plays the same towns year after year, for the same sponsors. To achieve this they provide ample returns for the sponsor, as well as a good circus program.

Some 96 people traveled on the show this year. Rolling equipment included 5 semi trac-

## A Real Crowd Pleaser

The Stebbing's Royal European Circus drew well throughout its 11 day run at the Virginia State Fair in Richmond. It rained for the first eight days of the fair, but this didn't seem to keep people away or dampen their enthusiasm.

The circus top still looks as if it were brand new and they use plenty of shavings on the ground. At tear-down time straw is spread over the ground to protect the big top. They have a special marquee wagon similar to what Carson & Barnes used a few years ago.

Music consists of an organ and drums, with Forest Fought directing. The announcements are made by Bill Stebbings.

The program featured:-

Al Vidbel - liberty act, elephants, dressage number  
 Carl Linares - poodle revue  
 Gaylord Maynard - drunk and his horse and the cowboy chimps  
 Barry Sloan - stilts and comedy  
 Don - plate spinning  
 Gus and Ursula - juggling  
 Princess Tiana - single trapeze

..... Hugo Marquardt

tors and trailers, plus 16 personally owned trucks, cars and trailers.

Only one performance was missed during the year and that was because of a rain storm during a two day stand.