

CIRCUUS REPORT

"AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY"



9th Year

July 21, 1980

Number 29



Joseph C. Reisinger

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SPECIAL

from William Wotsch

In the Spring of 1939 the S. E. Ranch Rodeo again appeared at our Cleveland Arena. Col. Jim Eshew was in charge.

Once again we had to build corrals in the back area for the steers, broncs, bulls and calves. It wasn't too hard this time as we had saved all of the material from the previous show.

Gene Autry and his horse Champion were in the show and his horse was kept in the north-east tunnel area. Gene Autry rode out into the arena where he put Champion through some obedience acts, such as kneeling, bowing, posing and laying down. Then he sang while sitting on the horse, after which he rode Champion sideways around the arena, his hat in his hand as he waved to the audience. The Melody Ranch Boys were also in the show.

The Grand Entry was nice with cowboys and cowgirls in fancy costumes, each carrying a banner representing a different state. One rider on a white horse was in the center ring with an American flag as they played the National Anthem.

When Col. Jim Eskew was introduced he rode full gallop into the area and was greeted by the crowd.

Some of the acts included a cowboy basketball game, Roman riding, Jumping over a car, Rope spinning, etc. Jim Eskew, Jr. did some rope spinning while standing on his horse, then slowly dismounted, while continuing to spin the rope, after which he skipped in and out of the loop.

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June - Sheboygan, Wisc. - Trapeze performer Heidi Bolz, fell during an evening performance of the Franzen Bros. Circus in her home town as several hundred patrons watched. She fell about 28 feet to the black top lot, but her fall was broken by fellow performer Curtis Caanan. Both performers worked the next day although both complained about being stiff from the fall.

June 29 - Gaithersburg, Md. - Hoxie Bros. Circus suffered their second blow down of the season and the big top was a total loss. For the next few days the show was sidewalled until they could obtain an old top from the Beatty-Cole Circus.

In Memoriam

ALLEN N. MARTIN (71), owner and operator of the Al Martin Theatrical Agency in Boston, Mass., died last month at Jensen Beach, Fla. He specialized in outdoor attractions and booked acts for fairs including the Eastern States Exposition. At one time he was a partner with Lou Walters and for several years he was the personal representative for the late Frank Fontaine. He is survived by his wife, Ethyl.

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Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus

July 21-22 Dover, Ohio
23-24 Weirton, W. Va.
25-27 Newark, Ohio

Big Apple Circus

July 19-27 Brooklyn, NY

Carden-Johnson Circus

July 23-25 Fergus Falls, Minn.
27-28 Gary, Ind.

Hubert Castle Circus

July 20-21 Norfolk, Nebr.
22 Columbus
24-26 St. Joseph, Mo.

Circus Arts Troupe

July 24-27 Augusta, Ga.

Happytime Circus

July 22-27 Santa Maria, Calif.

Hubler Int'l Circus

July 24 Frederick, Md.
26 Hagerstown

Make-A-Circus

July 22-23 San Francisco, Calif
25 Watsonville

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

to July 21 Inglewood, Calif.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

July 22-23 Lake Charles, La.
25-27 Austin, Texas

Roberts Bros. Circus

July 21 Hancock, Md.
22 Lemasters, Pa.
24 Sharpsburg, Md.
25 Fredrick
26 Hagerstown
27 Dover, Pa.

Royal Crown Circus

July 22-23 Roswell, N.M.
25-26 Clovis

Swan Bros. Circus

July 24-27 Sonora, Calif.

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

July 23-27 Lombard, Ill.

---- MAGIC ----

Magic Jubilee

July 24-27 Kansas City, Mo.

Manzini - Escape Artist

to Sept. 1 Lake George, NY

Prof. Miller's Magic Time USA

July 22 Hampton, Iowa
23 Clearlake
24 Delwein
26 Washington
27 Fairfield

Tom Ogden

to Aug. 24 Sheffield, Mass.

---- OTHER DATES ----

Burr's Fun-O-Rama

July 23-27 Barnstable, MaSS

Dondi, the Elephant

to July 30 Baltimore, Md.

James H. Drew Exposition

July 19025 Terre Haute, Ind.

Foley & Burk Shows

July 21-Aug. 2 San Mateo, Calif.

Gund Western Collection

July 24-Aug 20 San Francisco, Cal.

Hall & Christ Attractions

to July 27 Chicago, Ill.

Mighty Thomas Shows

July 22-26 Medicine Hat, Albta

Mister Sensation - Aerialist

July 21-27 Wyandotte, Mich.

Old Time Medicine Show

July 21 Cochrane, Ont.
23 Kirkland Lake
27 Elliott Lake

Parade of Stars

July 27 San Rafael, Calif.

Royal American Shows

to July 26 Rockford, Ill.

Royal Lipizzan Stallions

July 26-27 Oakland, Calif.

(Continued on Page 6)



Billy Barton

SHARON WARD, writing from Tokyo where she is with the FARRELL BROS., themselves appearing with Ringling's Monte Carlo Unit, says she finds the city far too crowded, and the food hard to take, but the people are wonderful, a feeling shared apparently by all those stateide acts visiting the land of Cherry Blossoms. Sharon spends her time teaching English and is also doing some modelling. Tall blondes, says she, are a rarity. Sharon touches down on U. S. shores in September.

LOTTIE BRUNN was juggling on the high seas last month - this time on a cruise to Bermuda. Upon her return she appeared with SAMMY DAVIS, Jr. in Philadelphia.

TOMMY BENTLEY, herding show trucks east and himself driving a semi, said it was one hell of a lousy trip - nothing but one breakdown after another; transmission, blown motor, and tires. CHUCK, lucky devil, flew. Tommy took a busman's holiday after arriving in Philly by driving to Wilmington (Del) to catch Hoxie Bros. That show, by the way, is doing better business, and the salaries cut 16% for two weeks have been reinstated. On my way back from the Brockton Fair I caught the show in New Jersey but a lengthier report on goings-on on that tenter will be filed in a second column by LEE MALONEY, due soon. Meanwhile I'll touch on a few highlights. The circus experienced a second blowdown and this time the big top was demolished. Hoxie bought some used canvas from Beatty-Cole, which I saw up for the first time, and the tent is in good condition, though much larger than that which the show normally works under. Next season, perhaps late in this season, Hoxie is bringing out a new top - a 90 with three middles, returning to the old-style top he used in the past.

LOTTIE BRUNN, FRANCIS BRUNN and TED CHIRRIK were due to meet me on the lot but something happened and the trio didn't show up. HERBIE WEBER and MARCELLA did show up however, as they were playing a 4th of July date nearby. Marcella has really slimmed down - the slimmest I've ever seen her. Herbie filled me in on the party during the Detroit Shrine Circus date, when he was enticed into being part of the "69 Cent Beauty Pageant". He agreed to do so only when he heard WALT KING would

also be in it, BUT, WALT, (the rat!) backed out and so Herbie, in full drag, copped the award - a huge cake presented by STRUPPI which the intrepid veteran wire walker preceded to "fake fall" his way into - face-first. Aside to Walt King - Now you know, Walt, BOBBY GIBBS would not have backed out!

SNAPSHOTS: After visiting Sue's folks in St. Louis, AL and SUE DAWLEY played three one-dayers for SAM POLACK in mid-June. On the show were: Lilli-Ana, the Pietro Canestrelli Family, the Bertinis, the Claytons, Zamudio family, Pirates of the Sky, Victor Julian's Little Stars presented by Leo Coffey, and the Tony Diano Elephants. . . At the Brockton Fair were: Ms. April, Mister Sensation, and Johnny Luxem, along with Jack Kochman and Joie Chitwood Thrill Shows. . . EDDIE HENRICHS visited Bentley Bros. during its L.A. stand and was the house guest of BETTY ESCALANTE who recently celebrated her birthday with a bash including Hazel Moss, Jo Jo Monarch, Shirley Carrol, Ray Harris and others. Betty is now waiting for Ringling to come to town so she can visit with good friend BOBBY JOHNSON. . . HERTA CUNEO finally became an American citizen. . . BOBBY KAYE brought trunks of wardrobe to RICK SMILEY when he came east recently. . . Bentley Bros. will continue their Gay Night At the Circus Galas with one in Boston on Aug. 7 and another in Philly Aug. 20. . . More additions to the Texas Shrine Circus route - Keith Killinger, Los Latinos, Mister Sensation and the Great Huberto. . . MIKE and JANICE ARIA are doing two shows a day with their bears, a third show with their dog act at Cedar Point with JUNGLE LARRY'S SAFARI. . . JIMMY DOUGLASS and VERN WOERNER helped re-tile GRACIE'S kitchen during a recent stop-over in Troy. . . On the last taping of CIRCUS! were Lottie Brunn, Stebbings little elephant worked by a six year old girl, plus their comedy chimps and their lion act; Walt King's elephants and mixed group; Mike Clark's cats; Ms April, sway pole and Debbie Chapman. . . The Cincinnati Shrine Circus will go back into the Cincy Gardens next year. . . Aerialist FREDDIE WHITE went home to visit his ailing mother - will be out of

(Continued on Page 20)

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Show Dates

The Sikorskys - Jugglers
to July 27 Salem, N.H.

Frank Strout - western act
July 24-27 Tidioute, Pa.

Tent Troupe
July 21 Westminster, Md.
22 Bethesda
23 Kensington
24 Burtonsville
25 Laytonsville
- End of Tour -

Tip Top Shows - Blue Unit
July 23-27 Slinger, Wisc.

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MAILBAG

(The following letter was received from California State Senator William A. Craven, of the 38th District - dated July 1, 1980).

Your letter concerning the dispute between the Department of Fish and Game and Mr. Berosini was forwarded to me for answering. I had my staff research this matter in some depth, as this is the second instance brought to my attention in recent months concerning a dispute between the Department of Fish and Game and circus acts.

However, in this case it appears the department is fully justified in its actions. Apparently, Mr. Berosini had no permits and was mistreating his animals.

I can well appreciate your concerns about "do-gooders" and the effect they may eventually have on circuses. Much of the current problem facing circuses today stems directly from recent legislation which essentially bans private ownership of large cats. It was not meant to apply to circuses, but some problems in definition have been encountered. It would not surprise me to see a legislative review of this matter in the 1981 session. Unfortunately, it is too late in the present legislative calendar to undertake such consideration.

Tip Top Shows - Green Unit
July 25-27 Horicon, Wisc.

Yankee Robinson CMB Meet
July 26-27 Foresthill, Calif.

HELLO

From LEO BRIZUELA

Mechanic with the Great London Circus

Was just thinking about everyone and wanted to say "Hello" and hope some day to see you all again.

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IN LOVING MEMORY

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by Lloyd E. Jones

Over the years Dover Publications has repeatedly surprised the magic fraternity by publishing reprints of magic classics, such as the great Hoffman books "Later Magic" (\$6.00) and "Modern Magic" (\$6.00), plus the rare "Exclusive Magical Secrets" of Will Goldstein (at just \$4.50). Even the standard "Encyclopedia of Rope Tricks" by Stewart James surprised Abbott's who had paid no attention to copyright protection (\$3.50 - most of these require 81c postage).

When I wondered how this could be done, I was informed "why every university and college gets one for their library and the nearby book stores handle them too." So, magicians can get cheap copies of great books because of volume printing.

Currently, they have produced "Sleight of Hand" by Edwin Sachs (\$4.95). Here I sit with my own edition priced at \$20.00 (plus \$1.03 postage). Am I worried? No! My book is the Fleming edition, an inch larger all the way around, with foot-notes, a preface, an additional chapter and 131 drawings v.s. 57. So, for quality, buy and get the best. Mine is the 4th edition, their is the 2nd).

As they seem to be doing of late, Dover also announced the book long before it was ready. As a result some dealers have been embarrassed by not having them. That is nothing compared to their faux pas with their publication of "The Magic Mirror", an Antique Optical Toy by the McLoughlin brothers and popular in the late 19th century. Announced in 1979, it finally appeared in late June. Meanwhile, I had advertised, received orders and

had to explain delays month after month, and finally in disgust gave refunds. Dover, meanwhile lists at differing prices in at least two of their catalogues and at last! It is here with a sticker added that prices it at \$2.50 (not \$2.00 or \$2.95). Well, it's worth the price (\$2.50 plus 59c) and with 24 plates in color of distorted figures that are made normal by rolling a mylar sheet to make a tube. Fascinating. (we had one of these anamorphic drawings as a giveaway during S.O.B. Jr. days). This is a novelty you will enjoy playing with, studying, or giving to a child or friend. Quite a struggle wasn't it Dover? Another of their broken promises involved Karl Fulves' "Self-Working Mental Magic", 67 fool proof mind reading tricks. Delayed, but now in book stores nationwide at only \$2.00.

Comments from here: "Too good for public sale." But then Karl Fulves probably needs the money. A wide variety with a lot of original touches and twists. A real buy.

Sam can also be said for the Fulves earlier Dover book, "Self-Working Card Tricks" selling for a mere \$1.50. It's well illustrated and has quality material. A good buy.

PEOPLE

SCOTT KOSER, GEORGE BINGAMAN, and BOB and ESTHER WEIGEL visited the Hoxie Bros. Circus at Westminster, Md. on June 30.

RIOS the Magician, escaped from a straight jacket, chains and cement blocks after being tossed into the Bay off San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf on July 4th.

REPORT**Franzen Bros. Circus**

by Allen Babcock

Late in May and over the Memorial Day weekend this writer had the opportunity of visiting Franzen Bros. Circus which is always a delightful experience. They have a good show and everyone is very friendly and the towns they play always seem happy to see them come back again.

This year's program featured: Dennis Michael (Freddie) clown come-in; Wayne Franzen, cat act (new this year is the tiger on a globe and the hind leg walk); Tonto the horse presented by Brian Grieser; Curtis Kid Caanan, juggling; Dennis Michaels, comedy; Curtis Kid Caanan, with llama and camel; Miss Tina, web; Dennis Michaels, goats (8); Intermission; Curtis Kid Caanan, wire; Brian Franzen with donkey; Freddie and Dolly, rola bola; Wayne Franzen with Oka the elephant; Curtis Kid Caanan, dogs; Miss Tina, trapeze; Wayne Franzen with liberty horses (12).

The circus staff includes: Wayne and Kathy Franzen, producers; Wayne Franzen, perfor-

PEOPLE

DAVE MURPHY put together a promotion at the Riverside Mall in Utica, NY with the Beatty-Cole Circus being sponsored by the Children's Museum. The advance was by far one of the best for the show's dates there.

MILONGA CLINE, recuperating from an operation, hopes to visit her daughter in Baraboo this month, then will visit with the Escalante family in Los Angeles before returning home sometime in August.

mance director; Lynn Michaels, organist; Ken and Emma Anderson, concessions; Brian Grieser, canvas boss; Jim Zajicek, novelties.

Visitors on the show lot were: Mr. and Mrs. Bob Phebus, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Sorrell, Dr. and Mrs. Henry Maxfield, Charles Bellatti, Vernon Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Backstein and son Eddie, Ron Hurst, Tom Parkinson, Merle Pepper and Ed Freeman.

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REPORT

20 PLUS 1

(Rellim Spelled Backwards is Miller)

by Bob Follmar

A friend of mine has movies of me assisting a magician doing the sub trunk trick. Those movies are 21 years old. The performer's name, 21 years ago was Rellim. Both the act and the man were good.

In the same town (Batavia, NY) in the same month 21 years later was a magician called Stu Miller. He is best known as Professor Miller and His Magic Time USA. May 25th saw him doing a show with a ¾ house doing some entertaining and well performed routines that I haven't seen before. His act consisted of some 18 sections which were well thought out, and logically presented with the Miller flair. The costuming was superb and many acts today could take a few lessons from him on this item alone.

The opening act was Carboni the clown and for ten minutes he kept the audience in stitches with his magic balloon which involved the whole audience at various times, depend-

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ing where the balloon was at. Its a great warm up or opener because of its color, involvement and excitement.

Starting with the clown, then into a flash frame opening, then followed (if my notes are correct) the floating tables, Jam stuff, Kid Stuff, Sword Box, The Six Box, Sawing a woman in half, Fire Eating, Levitation, Juggling act, Punch and Judy, Leopard production, Juggling, Star Wars, Miss Inga Dog Act, Sub Trunk, Substitution Routine, and a Finale for the close.

Especially good were the opening routine, the kids routine and the Star Wars routine. All had a bit of the Miller touch which is unmistakable.

All in all, from both a magical viewpoint and from an entertaining viewpoint, it was a good show and well worth seeing.

P.S. Another reason I went was that one of the ladies in the show is a very special friend of ours. Say Hi to Brenda when you see her.

PEOPLE

PATRICK JORDAN, 10 year old juggling ice skater is with an ice-extravaganza show in the east.

TONY ECHEVERRIA, fire performer, is working fairs in the New York area.

HAP DAVIS made the front page of the *Belleville News Democrat* on June 8th, the article, which included the **KARINAS** trampoline act and other show performers, was a plug for the *George Hubler Int'l Circus*.

TOMMY SCOTT recently returned from Canada where his *Old Time Medicine Show* was filmed by Canada's "Real People" TV show. He also taped a segment for Canada's "Canada AM" show.

GILDA's Leopards, the **GOETSCH** Brothers, the **CARLOS DUO** and **ARMANDO CRISTIANI** were featured in the "Circus" TV show from Canada aired June 13th at Indianapolis, Ind.

ANGELA ADNEY, ice skater, will soon be touring with the *Ice Follies*.

HARRY and **ROWENA THOMAS** visited **WADE BRUCK** and **DIETER WICHERT** at *Marineland Game Farm* in Canada late last month.

BOB EMERICO and **WOBBLER** the clown,

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visited with friends on the *Pickle Family Circus* when that show played in Oregon during June.

JOEY JORDAN, skating juggler, is performing at *Club Ibis Vegas Revue* in New York and is co-producing two variety shows "Showtime Follies" and "Iceextravaganza."

BOB and **FERRELL AHART** visited the *Carson & Barnes Circus* at *Decolam, Iowa* (straw houses) and *Delwion, Iowa* (¾ houses for both shows).

KARIN and **HAP DAVIS**, **WAYNE LIIKALA** and **HARRY** and **ROWENA THOMAS** visited the *St. Louis Zoo* this past month.

JARDA KUBIK, comedian-ice skater, is producing and performing in the "Stars on Ice" show.

MANOLO GODINEZ is the producer of the *Vegas revue show "Les Follies Supper Club"* being presented in *Miami, Fla.*

REPORT

CIRQUE INTERNATIONAL

by Robert Leblanc

1980 saw a new circus in the province of Quebec, in Canada. It is called 'Cirque International' and is the ex-Gatini Circus, using that show equipment and big top.

The show's owner is Leo Duplessis. The color scheme is dark blue and yellow, with a tiger decal on the truck doors. The show travels on 11 trucks, in addition to the various performer's units.

The program includes: Pat Anthony, wild animals; Bou Bou & Coco, clown number; Miss Victoria, web; Doris Schappacher's and Yoyo the unrideable mule, with Roy Wells assisting; Rejean Robertson and partner, chair balancing and rola bola; The Powell Ponies, worked by Patricia Wells; The Great Huston & Co., illusions; Le Grand Marcel, 45 degree wire climb, backward and forward; Killer Willard, boxing kangaroo; Intermission with color book sale by Giovanni Iuliani; Princess Whitefeather and her horse (Doris Schappacher); Clown number; Rejean Robertson and partner, juggling; Cristina's Chimps; Clown number; Les Demons Du Ciel, motorcycle on the wire; Gee Gee's elephants worked by Roy and Patricia Wells.

Gilles Frechette plays drums and is the band leader, assisted by Hans Redler on the organ.

In Memoriam

KNUCKLEHEAD, the famed dog of RBBB's head-lining clown Lou Jacobs, died recently of a heart attack while waiting for surgery. Knucklehead had worked with Lou in clown bits on the Ringling show for many years and was known internationally.

Acts

Phil Shear and Paul Niebauer will be the producing clowns with the John Strong produced Clown-Arama Show later this year.

Others appearing in that show will be Don Young, Pat and Gwen Davison, The Waltens, Leo and Marsha Griep, Kim Dixon, Neil Armstrong and Rick Jones.

Giovanni Iuliani is the performance director and ringmaster.

Bou Bou the clown is Jean DeRome, one of Montreal's finest clowns who has been traveling as Clown on his own circus and Coco is Ray the Clown, who has been traveling as a clown on many Hell-driver shows in both the U.S. and Canada.

Gee Gee Engesser, who is in the province of Quebec for the 5th consecutive summer is presenting an Elephant Skin Dog as a pit show and she will be adding two more Elephant Skin puppies in a few weeks.



REPORT**RINGLING-BARNUM BLUE UNIT**

by Virgil W. Craig

The writer has just returned from a four day visit with the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit at Oklahoma City. The show arrived there at 6:30 Wednesday evening, June 18th, after a 1,539 mile trip from Philadelphia. Everyone was tired, but otherwise OK.

The performers that have their own equipment arrived a day ahead of the train. It was a long old haul. Their only complaint was the high cost of gas on the trip.

At 7 o'clock call was given for the next morning to rig the show. Under the able supervision of the general manager Bob MacDougall and his fine staff the show was hung at a record pace.

They opened that evening to a near capacity crowd and what a show! All the performers and personnel did that little extra to put on a fine show.

The purpose of my visit was not only to see my friends on the show, but to spend as much time as possible with my good friend Tony

REPORT**SUMMERFEST CIRCUS**

The Summerfest Circus, presented on the Milwaukee, Wisc., lakefront, June 26 to July 6, and produced by Ron J. Kelroy & Associates featured the following program:

The Munoz Sisters, aerial perch; Miss Evelyn, 'The Girl in the Moon'; Pancho Magana and Co., ropes and whips; Joselito, high wire; The Cimse's Pomeranians and Russian Wolfhounds; The Swaying Stars (2); Lou Ann Jacobs, single trapeze; The Albanis (4), aerial platform motorcycle act; Patriotic Finale, entire company.

The show's announcer and vocalist was Ernie McLean.

(The Rolls Duo, aerial cradle, were also in the talent line-up, but didn't work in the show caught due to technical/rigging problems)

..... Jon Friday

Waldon of the train department. As a member of the Circus Fans Association and Model Builders we are modeling the Blue Unit Circus train as it is on it's 1980 tour. So I spent as much time as possible studying the train.

NEW BOOK**BOOK - NOELL'S ARK GORILLA SHOW**

by Anna Mae Noell - Published by Noell's Ark Publishers, Tarpon Springs, Fla. 33589

by George C. Bingaman

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Bob and Mae Noell have been recognized in our carnival-circus generation as the owners and producers of NAGS which featured fighting chimpanzees, entertaining gorillas and rare Orangutans.

As a circus fan I first read about their act in a contemporary volume about carnival acts which assigned top rating to NAGS. To have heard about this show from the written page is one thing. It is an entirely different ballgame to let Mae Noell in her forthright, unvarnished, clear and concrete style narrate the marvelous tale of her fighting chimps and

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LEE ECUYER

adorable gorillas. The detail and care in describing the acts and their upkeep only adds a desire to obtain more information about this unique form of carnival-circus entertainment.

I was not only fascinated by the entertainment provided by the apes, but I was also captivated by the almost unbelievable patience and care involved as they toured the eastern countryside.

Undoubtedly the animals received "better-than-human" care and love as they travelled as members of the Noell family. NAGS is a love story of a family for their exotic animals as they travelled America's roads, played their towns and rested in rural pastures.

Which leads to a third value of this unabashed volume - the Noell's amassed an amazing knowledge about the care and behavior of their apes. Anyone who loves animals and desires to have them as pets should read NAGS to profit by this invaluable experience.

We salute Mae Noell for giving us this story of unusual entertainment which also provides a delightful adventure in the reading thereof. The best proof of a good book is that you cannot stop reading until you reach the final page. NAGS will not let you stop reading until the finale.

SPECIAL**AERIALIST IS DEAD**

by Harry L. Graham

Ringling-Barnum aerialist Julio Farias is dead at the age of 16, the victim of his beautiful but perilous art of trapeze flying.

The handsome youth took a fall June 25th at the Community Center in Tucson, Ariz., while practicing the 3½ somersault to the hands of his father, Fidel. Although Julio was wearing a mechanic, the rope kinked in a pulley and threw him to the edge of the net. He tumbled to the concrete floor and was knocked unconscious.

Farias was taken to St. Mary's Hospital with massive head and spinal injuries. Convinced Julio's condition was hopeless, his family ordered the life-support systems disconnected Monday, June 30th. The great young flier died shortly afterwards without having gained consciousness.

Working with his father as catcher and coach, Julio began flying when he was just past the toddling stage. By the time he was 8, Fidel let him join the family flying act, which included his mother, Rosalba. Later his sister, Carmelina, four years his junior, joined them. Three years ago his brother, Tata, then 5, was added to the team.

Julio began working on the triple somersault at the age of 10, and started throwing it on the Ringling Blue show in 1976, when he was 12. He was hailed by circus publicists as the youngest flier in history to catch the big trick.

Two years ago, Julio added the dangerous quadruple somersault to the net as a dismount trick. This season Julio included the 3½ somersault in his repertoire, when Tata, now 8, began the triple. Tata had beaten by two years Julio's record as the youngest flier ever to catch the three spins.

Funeral services for Julio Farias were held at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in East Los Angeles on July 3rd. Father David Hennessy, circus chaplain, officiated. Interment was at Resurrection Cemetery in San Gabriel.

The death of Julio Farias will go down in circus history as one of the greatest of the flying tragedies. As a flier his name will be mentioned with such greats as Alfredo Codona and Tito Gaona. But he died too soon for anyone to know just how good he might have been.

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REPORT

HOXIE'S SECOND BLOW DOWN

by Frank Felt

Ill luck continued to plague Hoxie Bros. Circus as it was hit by the second blowdown in less than a month, on Sunday, June 29th at Gaithersburg, Md.

The storm hit the show about 3:30 p.m. a few minutes after a large matinee crowd had left the tent. Manager Joe McMahan ordered a John Robinson performance in the face of a tornado and severe storm warning. The sky blackened just as 'Dutch' Crawford put the five small bulls through a rapid concluding number and Bill Brickle announced the conclusion of the performance. He had to urge the large crowd to leave quickly as they were unaware of the weather situation and many tended to linger inside the top.

The foresight of the show's management prevented many possible injuries as the storm hit quickly taking down the marquee first. The big top remained in the air for almost fifteen minutes before it snapped the guy ropes, billowed high in the air and then collapsed over

CIRCUS BOOK - "The Circus Life and Adventures of Adam Bardy" - A truly interesting life story for old-timers especially. Only \$7.95 a copy. Order from: Adam Bardy, Thompson, Conn. - 06277.

the seats.

Miraculously Roger Boyd's side show top stayed up throughout the storm, suffering only minor damage. Some show trucks formed a windbreak which helped to save the smaller top.

The showfolks quickly recovered from their ordeal and clean up operations began. The 5 p.m. performance was cancelled but the show planned to sidewall at Westminster, Md, the following day.

No estimate of the severity of damage to the big top was available immediately after the blowdown. It was not known whether the old top could be repaired after its second bout of wind damage. A new top was reportedly on order.

Also on hand for the shortened performance and subsequent blowdown was ex-CFA president Jim Harshman.

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

the Hoxie program for a week or so. . . JASON McCULLOM caught the show when it played Downington (Pa.). . . CHUCK MELTZER is enjoying his new Florida home. . . AL ANTONUCCI says he isn't the least bit unhappy he got rid of his chimp act. He and Ms. April are playing a lengthy route of New England fair and carnival spots. . . BONNIE ARMOR is back from a month long trip to Europe and a visit to daughter SA SA. . . The FORNASARIES will go to the Monte Carlo Circusfest. . . FAY and ROSE ALEXANDER have joined the brigade stopping over at BILL and TRUDY's Circus Farm. . . Getting to be the Acts' Crossroads of the Industry. . . Visiting yours truly at the Brockton Fair were FRANK DAILEY, of Garden Bros., in Boston visiting his mother;

ROSEMARY MARINO and BEVERLY HELGHAM, CYNDY and ED MIGLEY. JOHN LOOMIS also stopped by and reminisced about DON DORSEY and the BRUNN family. . . The QUASSARS played the Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Fair. . . FLORINE OLER says she "ain't kidding" - NO MORE tours in 1981, says she wants time to enjoy her Florida home. . . BOB CONTO of the Kochman Thrill Show told me that show is not one-day-standing it this year. Too expensive! One of the drivers kicked off their season by rolling and smashing up a brand new Dodge - happened during the "hi-skis" when the car hit a soft spot on the track. . . WES OLER told me he has 13 more fairs in New York state than he had last year. . . LEE MALONEY's new Airstream is a real beauty and very well decorated. . . BILL BRICKLE is announcing the Hoxie program in addition to doing his poodle revue. JOHN LEWIS is back on the Hoxie show and Hoxie himself has been spending an inordinate

amount of time on the big show - inordinate, because he prefers to be on the Great American, his favorite (by his own admission) of the twin shows. . . I was told on the Hoxie show that the Kelly Bros. tent packed it in for the season. Biz remains iffy for many of the tenters as the season progresses.

BARBARA TAGGART flew to Washington to spend a few days with the Wenatchee Youth Circus. That group, under the direction of PAUL PUGH, is using six of Barbara's numbers. Barbara won still ANOTHER award from ASCAP for her great circus music. She writes that a new song "Summer Wonderland" is being used as the Theme Song for Wisconsin Dells. Recently the composer went up to that area to help promote the tune.

At the end of the L.A. stand TOMMY BENTLEY announced: "This concludes our show for tonight." As he did so it began to rain. Tommy ad-libbed: "As I said, this concludes our show for tonight - with Dancing Waters, no less!"

SEE you in print, luvs.

On The Cover

This week's cover painting by Robert B. Johnson is called "The Lion King" and features a wild animal trainer with a huge array of lions in the steel arena.

It is not known if this painting represents an act that was once presented by Terrell Jacobs, but for most of his show business career Jacobs was billed as "The King of the Lions" and his act usually featured a large number of lions.

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PEOPLE

DONNA FARINA has returned to her home in New Jersey where she is recuperating from her recent fall in Las Vegas.

HARRY BLACKSTONE, Jr. does the vanishing bird cage trick in a commercial for Ponderosa. Also appearing in the same commercial are **SHERRI LEWIS** and her puppet Lamb Chop.

HAPPY DAVIS taped a segment for CBS-TV PM Magazine in Erie, Pa., while in town for the Shrine Circus. Featured was Sir Chadwick Chase and his Rolls Rotten.

PHILIP MORRIS, magician, has just finished video taping a series of eight 2 hour TV programs for the Ted Turner organization. In the series, Phil portrays the part of Dr. Evil, a TV character that he created in the 60's. The program is being shown in prime time on Friday nights.

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CIRCUS QUIPS

BY **KARL J. BISCHOFF**

SOME SHOWMEN can come up with all the good ideas in the world, but they won't work if he doesn't.

OPTIMISM is not only the spirit, it's the watchword among show people.

IF some shows find it hard to find a lot remember it took **NOAH** 40 days to find one.

A Smart showman knows he's getting old when he spends more time talking to his **DRUGGIST** than to his **BARTENDER**.

OVERHEARD on a circus lot, "I've lost everything, my money, my trailer, my car, my wife. The only thing I've got left is my **GOOD LUCK CHARM**."

Shrine Dates

COOS-CURRY COUNTY SHRINE CLUB COQUILLE, OREGON

BY MIKE SPORRER

- 1956 - Apr. 6 - Rudy Bros. Circus
- 1957 - None
- 1958 - Apr. 3 - Ken Jensen
- 1959 - Apr. 3 - Ken Jensen
- 1960 - Apr. 1 - Ken Jensen
- 1961 - Mar. 24 - Ken Jensen
- 1962 - Mar. 30 - Ken Jensen
- 1963 - Mar. 29 - Ken Jensen
- 1964 - Mar. 27 - Ken Jensen
- 1965 - Apr. 2 - Ken Jensen
- 1966 - Mar. 25 - Ken Jensen
- 1967 - Mar. 31 - Ken Jensen
- 1968 - Apr. 5 - Ken Jensen
- 1969 - Mar. 21 - Reppines Int'l
- 1970 - Mar. 27 - Reppines Int'l
- 1971 - Mar. 26 - Reppines Int'l
- 1972 - Apr. 10 - Reid Bros.
- 1973 - Apr. 6 - Reid Bros.
- 1974 - Apr. 19 - Grand Circus Safari
- 1975 - May 9 - Grand Circus Safari
- 1976 - May 14 - Grand Circus Safari
- 1977 - May 6 - Grand Circus Safari
- 1978 - May 5 - Grand Circus Safari
- 1979 - Apr. 13 - Grand Circus Safari

(All of the above dates were played at the Coquille High School Gym).

Miscellaneous

The Milwaukee (Wsc) Sentinel of June 27th carried a special feature on the Herriott Fam-

HOTLINE

The Sikorskys - Albert and Larry and Bobby Pleis, were returning to the East, after a tour of dates (Denver, Kansas City) with the Coronas Circus when misfortune struck. As they were passing around St. Louis, Mo., on Route 270, in Mitchell, Ill., their one truck and trailer flipped on it's top, in a light rain-slicked roadway. The trailer had jack-knifed and Albert at the wheel, attempted to straighten it out, was unsuccessful, and went off the road and down a 100 foot embankment, and there landed upside down.

Although there was extensive damage to their truck and trailer, both crawled out of the flat-tended cab, without a cut or bruise. Needless to say, their date on June 30th at the University of West Virginia, was cancelled, however, they hope to get home in time for a three day fair, and then to Canobie Lake Park, New Hampshire for three weeks.

Their parents, Ethel and Bert Sikorsky had been visiting Chuck and Dana Armstrong the featured aerialists with Hoxie Bros. Circus. Following the show all had taken in a movie, after which they drove home, without the knowledge that the boys had been attempting to contact them.

ily and the Circus World Museum's big July 5th circus parade.

The 33rd annual IJA Convention was held at Fargo, N.D., on July 15-20. In addition to a number of juggling programs, the convention included workshops, seminars, a parade and the presentation of awards.

in the NEWS

POACHERS KILLING ELEPHANTS

Uganda's elephants are being wiped out by poachers in a merciless drive that has turned the country's national parks into pathetic graveyards for the massive beasts.

"Anarchy has descended on Uganada's national parks and game reserves," says Eric Edroma, head of research for the Parks.

He said a recent survey showed only 1,500 elephants in the country, compared with more than 30,000 in 1973. The total now "is likely to be much lower since poaching continues unabated," he added.

"Uganada's national parks are littered with elephant carcasses, poachers' camps and meat drying racks," said Edroma.

"The last seven years have been bad for the elephant and the term of genocide equally applies to the elephant slaughter in Uganda. The picture in the field is horrifying, pathetic and sad."

Edroma said the situation arose under dictator Idi Amin and continued under subsequent governments, because of a breakdown in law and order, a "get-rich-quick drive," and Uganda's

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declining economy.

He has appealed to the country's authorities to make the possession of arms and ammunition illegal and to empower local chiefs to arrest poachers.

Edroma says that many other species besides the elephant are also threatened by the slaughter in Uganda's game parks. The white rhino is now extinct in the country, and what was believed to be Uganda's last mountain gorilla was shot and killed last year.

The future of Uganda's wildlife is an issue of grave concern, says Edroma. The Ugandans should should consider themselves fortunate to belong to a country richly endowed with a variety of wildlife.

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