



8th Year

May 21, 1979

Number 21

C-J Wows S.F.

The Carden-Johnson Circus made its debut on the West Coast the weekend of May 4-6, playing for the Shrine Temple in San Francisco, with performances presented at the Cow Palace. It was a big show and one that surprised most folks, both with its performance and the attendance.

The circus was such that it would have been impossible to put it into the downtown auditorium. The air was filled with rigging, rivaling even that of the Ringling show. Red track mats were put down on the cement floor, with red and green mats used in the rings. Ring curbs were white with lighted diamonds and everything had been freshly painted and was virtually spotless. All of the costumes looked as if they were new.

The program ran a good 2½ hours or more and was probably the strongest show seen on the west coast in many years. In addition to bringing in their big show unit, Carden-Johnson also hired additional acts on the coast, making the entire show a full three ring operation.

Shrine officials and the audience were enthusiastic about the show program and had nothing but praise for the circus, its people and producers Larry and Betty Carden.

The show was backed by a 22 piece band,

directed by Mike Pike, with Scott Emerson on drums. Announcer/equestrian director was Larry Rich. The program featured: Sheila Winn, slide for life; Bill Golden, tigers; Bob Top and Edna, aerial roller skaters; The Bickmores, aerial ladder; David Linden, plate spinning; The Olmedas, juggling; Miss Lani, rope spinning; Karl Winn on the long high wire; Royce; tightwire; David's one finger stand and balancing; The Wolsky Family, trampoline; Tina's Doves; Markie Doves;

(Continued on Page 18)

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PEOPLE

AUSTIN MILES, circus chaplain and ringmaster, was at the Shrine Circus in Lexington, Ky., where his 16 year old daughter, **LORI**, made her debut as "Lorilini" the clown.

MARTIN WEAVER and Dr. **PAUL FITZPATRICK** visited Hoxie Bros. Circus in Jefferson, Ga., on Apr. 28th. Paul served as official circus doctor during the Ringling Red Unit's date at Atlanta, Ga.

KAY PITTENGER, aerialist, spent the past several months teaching aerial work to students at the Sarasota Sailor Circus, and in addition she sold tickets for the show.

CAROL CHENEY and "Baby Tarra" will be with the Great Western Show in Southern California for May 22-29. They'll also appear with the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at San Rafael (Calif) as a feature of the fair on June 29-July 4th.

SYD, BARBARA and **JULIE MOORE** are presenting the "Mess of Mutts" dog act at Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, Va. for the summer season. At the same time **STACY, MURIEL** and **STACY, Jr.** are presenting the comedy mule number in the park's Three Musketeers Theatre.

LLOYD INGRAM and **HELEN SAKAS** were married during the Aut Mori Grotto Circus at Cleveland (Ohio). Rev. Austin Miles performed the ceremony which was attended by 45 Aut Morro clowns. The groom is a member of that clown group.

ERMA RUDYNOFF, retired circus rider, spent her vacation in Switzerland last year and on June 20th she will leave for a cruise to Bermuda. She toured with the Ringling circus and at one time worked with **BILLY BARTON**.

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REPORT

KELLY BROS. CIRCUS . . . by Jon Friday

The Kelly Bros. Circus opened Mar. 28th at Oklahoma City, about four days behind the Hamid-Morton Circus. In fact we met the Cuneo elephants and some show people at a local stop for trucks.

We recently completed our Texas tour, which was very good and have also played several spots in the State of Oklahoma.

The current show line-up is: Overture with Dean Coonrod at the Hammond organ; Liberty horses and Jockey Dog, trained and presented by Mike Rice; Clown Ricco (Heinrich Garbleman) and the Ringmaster, Jon Friday, as the Sharpshooter; Golda Marie & Michael (Ashton), foot juggling; Peanut Pitch; Dino & Anita, tight wire; the Ringmaster's Magic Moment; DuBois Chimps (2); Intermission; Morgan Ashton Family (5), risley; Ricco's Plate Spinning; Randon's Canine Revue; Miss Jana on the Aerial Lyra; the Odd Family, knockabout acrobatics; Ricco, clown bit; Rajah, the Star of India, performing male elephant with tusks, trained and presented by Mike Rice.

Mike Rice left the show for his summer engagement at the Circus World Museum at Baraboo, but is expected to return in the fall. The Peter Luvas family joins the show May 2nd at Enid, Okla., and will be presenting two animal and two aerial acts.

Nick Bengor gets the top up and down on schedule while Heinz and Margaret Frauenstein handles the concessions. Rafael Menendez operates the Moon Walk on the midway.

AL DAWLEY, ringmaster, was with the Shrine Circus at St. Paul, Minn. He and **SUE** recently visited the Beatty-Cole Circus at Memphis.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is compiled and edited by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530
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SHOW DATES

Beatty-Cole Circus

May 21-23 Exton, Pa.
24-30 Plymouth Meet.

Big John Strong Circus

May 21-22 Tempe, Ariz.
23 Tucson
24 Deming, N.M.
25-26 Albuquerque
27 Clovis

Carden-Johnson Circus

May 25-27 Toronto, Ont.

Carson & Barnes Circus

May 21 Kearney, Nebr.
22 Grand Island
23 Hastings
24 Columbus
25 Seward
26 Tecumseh

Hubert Castle Circus

May 21-22 Lethbridge, Alberta
23-27 Calgary

Circus Vargas

May 25-28 San Bruno, Calif.

Funs-A-Poppin Circus

to May 31 San Bernardino,
Calif.

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Great American Circus

May 21 Latrobe, Pa.
22 Jeannette
23 Connellsville
24 Waynesburg
25 Grindstone
26 Donora
27 McMurray

Hamid-Morton Circus

May 25-27 White Plains, NY

Tommy Hanneford Circus

May 19-Sept. 12 Middletown
Ohio

Happytime Circus

May 25-28 Vacaville, Calif.

Hoxie Bros. Circus

May 21 Cumberland, Md.
22 Clarksburg, W. Va.
23 Belpre, Ohio
24 Marietta
25 Cambridge
26 Martins Ferry
27 Zanesville

Hubler Int'l Circus

May 26-27 Jackson, Miss.

M. D. Circus

May 25-28 Wisc. Dells, Wisc.

Monte Carlo Circus

May 22-23 Jackson, Tenn.
25-27 Johnson City

Moscow Circus

May 23-27 Atlanta, Ga.

Nur Shrine Circus

May 25-27 Wilmington, Dela

Pickle Family Circus

May 26-27 Nevada City, Cal.

Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit

May 22-28 Providence, R. I.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

to June 3 New York, N.Y.

Roberts Bros. Circus

May 21 Union, W. Va.
22 Rainelle
23 Beverly
24 Buckhannon
25 Flemington
26 Kingwood

Royal Lichtenstein Circus

May 21 Davis, Calif.
22 Sacramento
23 Kentfield
24 San Jose
25 Santa Clara
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---- MAGIC ----

Prof. Miller - Magic Time USA
May 21 Parkersburg, W. Va.
23 Sugargrove, Ohio
26 Aurora

Tom Ogden - Magician
May 26 Mt. Kisko, NY



CHRISTA DUBSKY had her purse snatched in the parking lot of a grocery store in Macon (Ga) during their appearance in that city for the Shrine Circus. Christa and several members of the troupe were loading groceries into the truck when a gang of black boys asked the time. Christa set her bag down to look at her watch. The boys grabbed the purse and ran. Stolen were \$500 in cash, credit cards and Christa's glasses.

WES and FLORINE OLER report a good tour with BILL GARDEN's "Showtime Follies". The program includes Paulette Braun, Gary Holveck & Co., Al Antonucci's chimps; Trio Kolmedy; Sampion; Ray Marek; Maria France; the Olmedas, with Florine Oler, organist; Mario Alberti, drums; Gary Holveck, MC and Wes Oler, unit manager. The tour started in Naples (Fla) Mar. 19th, closes June 17th in Texas. Phil and Chris Oler are with Bill Garden's second unit, "Holiday Hippodrome", where Chris has debuted her portable trap and where Phil is the drummer. They also have the balloon concession.

THE Blonde Bombshell - GEE GEE - had her 5th wheel smashed into enroute to the Detroit date, and enroute to Omaha, the brakes failed on her semi and the cab arrived with a battered front end. Gee Gee is changing her wardrobe for the Cossack elephants, from short costumes to Russian styled trousers. JOHNNYWALKER, Jr. and LAURA arrived in Omaha to continue on with Gee Gee for the Cirque Gatini tour. Laura will work the pony drill on the tenter and if all goes well, look for the famed Blonde Bombshell to retire from the spotlight next season.

CLOSEUPS: Prop boss BOBBY DAVIS joined JIMMY DOUGLASS' clown alley on recent M&M dates, turned out to be such a good clown he now owns a makeup box and wardrobe and alternates between boss-propping and clowning. . . It's a son for CARLOS and CAROL OBANDO, born in Rochester (NY) while Papa Carlos was playing the Omaha date. . . M&M resigned the Tangier Shrine Circus (Omaha) for two more years and has packed the Lincoln (Nebr) and Rochester (NY) Shrine dates for 1980. It appears the show will add several new Shrine dates to next year's itinerary. . . Clown BRUCE WARNER, visiting in Lincoln after playing the Wichita Shrine date, says the new building is very nice and has ideal parking facili-

ties for trailers, BUT, they charge \$25.00 to park! . . . BILL GALLOWAY and wife BEV spent a week's vacation with M&M with Bill working props. Their daughter BRENDA is working with CARLOS OBANDO doing low tight wire and perch. . . JIMMY ZOPPE bought two more horses for his riding act. . . The MANUEL NAVARROS took delivery on a new 28 ft. Holiday Rambler in Lincoln (Nebr). Their previous Holiday held up for 12 years.

The Great JOSELITO, who fell in Detroit from the "walk up", fracturing one heel and injuring the other, returned to work in Omaha, doing his usual outstanding job. . . The YOUNG TROUPE and ARIA's BEARS and Golden Retrievers are currently with IAN GARDEN's building unit which is on a 6 week run. The tent unit opened in early May. . . ETHEL's Greyhounds will be playing Canadian Fair dates for Gastoni this summer. . . LESLIE, femme leaper with the FLYING LANES, missed, hit the net and bounced out - right into the arms of LUIS MUNOZ. Unhurt the gal climbed back up and caught the trick.

ENROUTE west we stopped over to visit the Popular's Trailer Park in Elkhart (Ind) and encountered beaucoup performers. HAPPY and KAREN DAVIS had just returned from the Australian disaster and Happy showed me his new pickup with a special body to house his comedy car - very clever design. Also seen were the SWAYING STARS, the FLYING VASQUEZ, the NAVARROS, Luis and Tina MUNOZ, IRIS KEPPO, SHARON VIDBEL and the HORTOBAGYIS.

KUDOS to Shriner/CFA MARK ANTHONY of Tangier Shrine Temple in Omaha (Nebr) whose publicity work is indefatigable. He arranged marvelous publicity spreads for the circus during the run, good front page stuff, and strategic TV spots.

SNAPSHOTS: INGE and ANGELO BISBINI expect their new baby by fall. They are touring with the Quebec Unit of Cirque Gatini. . . JIMMY DOUGLASS and VERN WOERNER bought still another antique organ to add to their collection. Jimmy soon hopes to get started on construction of his museum which will house antique organs, clocks and unusual artifacts of antiquity. . . DAVID CHABIRA expects to

(Continued on Page 16)

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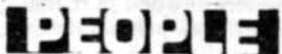
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CLARK McDERMOTT and the Cold Nose Five dog act worked the King City (Calif) fair the weekend of May 10-13.

BOB WELZ, juggler, recently completed a tour with a unit of Ice Capades, and is now featured at the Hotel Americano in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

JOHN MOLINARI, musical director for Ice Capades Western Unit spent some time relaxing in Hawaii after the show closed its tour in Honolulu on May 4-13th.

OZZIE SCHLEENTZ has been booking dates for the Roberts Bros. Circus in the New England area.

ALBERT LUCAS, juggler, **J. P. ROMANO**, comedy bicycle, and **PELUZA**, clown, will reportedly be touring with the Ice Capades Western Unit for the upcoming season.

JOHN SABO, chimp trainer and breeder, was the guest speaker at the John Herriott Tent CFA banquet held at Newburgh, N. Y. on May 20th.

FRANK BALL, **DON McGARVEY** and **CAROL** and **TONY CONWAY** visited the Stu Miller Magic Show at Front Royal, Va., last month.

JOE YAW and **MARLIN WEAVER**, of the Duggan Bros. Tent, CFA, put on a huge CMB display for Ex-

po 79 at the Farmer's Market, Forest Park, Ga., and report some 80,000 people attended the event.

ROBERT LUND, of the American Museum of Magic, Marshall, Mich., is back home after attending the International Magic Collector's Association Convention. He obtained some new items for the museum.

MARI JO COULS visited her daughter **PATTI RUCKER** in Sarasota during rehearsals for the 1979 edition of "Jubilee on Ice". She also visited Int'l All Star Circus, Beatty-Cole, Hoxie Bros., Great American and Roberts Bros. Circus.

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★ ★ UNDER THE BIG TOP ★ ★ ★

The Big John Strong Circus is winding up its spring dates in California and preparing for its tour into the mid-west and eastern area. The show is expected to spend several weeks in Canada before return to the west coast in the fall.

The circus tour started in late March and will keep the show on the road until November. At many of its California dates the show was just ahead or just behind Circus Vargas, which incidentally is planning to stay in the western states this season.

At one of their last dates in the Central California region, Big John said "business so far this year has been about 25% ahead of what it was last year." However, he was also quick to point out that "our expenses have been 40% higher than last year."

In addition to some stiff competition from Circus Vargas, the Big John Strong Circus has been hit by the west coast shortage of gasoline and its rising prices. They have managed to move without too much trouble, but since the start of an odd/even day for gas sales some acts have found they are unable to make the jumps as easily as before.

This year's circus program is probably one of John's biggest ever. The show features Fes' Brahma bull act; The Brauns, whips/ropes; Bill Schrieber, dogs/ponies; Sandy Strong, birds/dogs; Swami Amazo, sword swallowing/fire eater; Sparky, the Clown with his floating cane/show operator; Neena the elephant; John Maguire, clown; Chris Kennington, trapeze/ladder/web, plus several other people whose names were not obtained.

The show's equipment has been all newly painted and the semi tractors are new. They have a new light plant and are carrying a full time electrician. Wally Wallentin gets the show up and down each day and generally sees to it that the jumps are made smoothly and on schedule.

SPECIAL

(From the Sentinel Star Services - Dated May 5, 1979 from St. Augustine, Fla.)

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission said about 55 animals allegedly left for 10 days without food or drink were doing better Friday under the commission's protective custody.

Some of the Bengal tigers and lions kept at the tourist attraction known as Fort Bengali were so weak that they were unable to stand, according to state wildlife officials.

St. Johns County Judge David Buck ordered the seizure of the animals Wednesday after hearing testimony about the state of neglect in which they were kept. Another hearing is scheduled for next Thurs-

ROPING CONTEST

Frank Dean, veteran trick and fancy roper, who is considered to be the foremost authority on this type of roping, helped formulate plans for a Will Rogers Trick Roping for Record Contest for the Will Rogers centennial year activities. Dean left the Funs-A-Pop-pin Circus for two days to attend conferences at the Will Rogers Memorial in Claremore, Okla.

Former Oklahoma Senator Clem McSpadden, nephew of Will Rogers and Dr. Reba Collins, curator of the Will Rogers Memorial, were enthused over the prospects of this new type of trick roping contest. The first of its kind ever scheduled.

Out of 25 events suggested by Dean, 15 were chosen for this year's contest. Thirteen are for adults and two are for juniors, 16 years and under.

All of the classes will be judged numerically, an innovation in this type of contest. The longest rope that can be spun in one big loop and the greatest number of horses that can be caught at one time are examples of the thirteen contests. (Will Rogers spun 105 feet of rope for an unofficial record some 50 years ago).

Anyone interested in the full details of the contest and who want to learn how they can become eligible can write to: The Will Rogers Memorial, Box 157, Claremore, Okla. 74017 (Phone: 918-341-0719).

Foreign entries are expected, including a group of Charros from Mexico. Will Rogers was a roper with a circus in Australia and since that time many great trick and fancy ropers have toured with circuses. Today, The Brauns, The Claytons, Barbara Autry, The Deans, Lani Ironberg, Faye Snyder, Brad and Sheila Frank, The Strongs, Rex and Wanda Rossi are representative of this group.

The events will be submitted for entry in the Guinness Records in much the same manner as other records are submitted and recorded.

Many ropers do this sort of thing as a pleasing hobby and it is expected that this group will make up the bulk of the contestants. To win a roper needs to be proficient in the event he enters. Mastering one trick could win him a record.

day. (May 10).

A complaint earlier this year that the animals were improperly caged - the big animals were kept in small circus-type traveling cages - is pending. Wildlife officials said other charges may also be filed.

Fort Bengali owner, Julius Von Uhl, was unavailable for comment. He reportedly purchased the attraction on State Road 16 near Interstate 95 nine months ago but has been prevented from opening because of wildlife officers' complaints.



CIRCUS GENOA . . . by Johnny Fulghum

The writer visited Circus Genoa at Waverly, Va., on April 29th and the show offers a top-drawer performance with a great band. The show moves on 18 rigs and it's program runs 1½ hours and is presented under a 120 with three 40's big top, using double quarter poles.

No side show is carried, but two semis of tigers, lions, baboons, bears and leopards, plus 7 big bulls make up the free zoo on the midway. There is also a pony ride, elephant ride, small snake show, office wagon, and floss and pop corn wagon on the midway.

Bobby Rawls painted the show and some rigs have elephant heads, lions, etc. All of the equipment bears the show's logo in red and white.

The jumps are generally 50-60 miles and normally gives one show on Sundays. They day-and-dated the Beatty Cole show in Florida, with a lot of visiting between shows.

A cook house is carried and feeds about 74 people. Jimmie Garcia has the big top and it goes up and down each day.

Eva Karoly does a nice turn with her horses and dogs. The show opens with Kenny Benoit's cat act

with 6 lions and 3 tigers. Ken Benson handles the announcing and doubles as a knife thrower, whip artist and juggler. Two flying acts close the show, over ring 1 and 3. The show has nice newspaper ads and billing is good, with plenty of lithos and cards being used.

The show carries ponies, llamas and the above mentioned animals. They have a shop truck, a water wagon and spool truck.

The band is under the direction of Charles E. Stevenson and consists of 6 pieces (3 trumpets, drummer, trombone, 2 bass). They play a concert for come in, as well as for the show.

The show's route will probably take it along the east coast and then into the midwest area. They are now planning a tour that will last until December.

The show staff and band consists of: Johnny Frazier, manager; Paul Hudson, supt.; Jodie Rawls, office; Jaime Garcia, big top; Gus Walker, head mechanic; Ralph Duke, general agent; Ken Benson, announcer; Col. Chas. E. Stevenson, bandmaster; Tony Greiner, trombone; Vince Seyfried, trumpet; Gene Holm, trumpet; George Hevlin, trumpet; Rand Fulton, drums; Dan Reynolds, bass.

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Show Date

SAM T. POLACK CIRCUS . . . by Rich Strelak

The Sam T. Polack Circus played for the Shrine at Little Rock, Ark. (Apr. 27-28) where there were record breaking attendance figures for the four shows. In most cases it was SRO with additional seating brought out for the main floor.

Special presentations were made at one show when Col. Sanders of the Kentucky Fried Chicken stores attended the show. At another show special presentations were made to Ronald McDonald, of the McDonald Hamburger Chain. Some of Ronald's friends were present and they entertained the audience before show time.

The program included: The Rix Bears; Frank & Esraleta, aerial perch; Miss Wilson and her Pets; The Clown Wedding; Eugene and Aurelia, tightwire; the Clown Sharpshooter; Miss Jo-Anne and Toma, dressage; Tony Smaha, long rein dressage; the Great Francarro, head balance trapeze; Little John, chair balancing; The Kent's chair balancing; The Flying Vasquez Troupe; Intermission; The Vasquez brothers, single trapeze; Willy Lenz & Co., chimps; The Claytons, whips and ropes; The Pinson's elephants; The Clown Hot Dog Salesman; The Smahas, Lipizzan

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Ringmaster Al Dawley kept things running smoothly through the two hour show which was well received by the audience. Clown Alley included Joe Sherman, Les Schmitt, John MacKay, Noel Strelak and Rich Strelak. Musical director was Al Vernon, Ron Kelroy was in charge of props and the Shrine's circus coordinator was Leo Johnson.

DARRELL WALLER and his dancing horse "Mr. Rythm" were pictured on the front page of the Rocky Mountain News (Denver, Colo) on April 26th, where they were appearing at the Colorado Classic Horse Show.

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Injury Report

Luis Munoz, Spanish wire walker appearing with the Monte Carlo Circus at Detroit, Mich., was injured when his rigging collapsed on May 1st. Reports indicate that he apparently was testing his wire in the empty arena when the rigging collapsed. A performer entering the arena found Munoz laying on the floor.

Hospital sources said the performer did not receive any broken bones. However, he apparently could not remember falling and they suggested that he refrain from performing until a series of tests could be taken.

Wally Naghtin, bear trainer with the Ringling-Barnum Circus suffered a broken leg when a bear knocked him down during a performance on April 28th. After several days in the hospital and walking with crutches Wally has put the act back into the performance.

Ron Gill, of the aerial act, Ron & Mitzie, is in the hospital (St. Vincent) at Sioux City, Iowa, where he has been confined with a bad case of pneumonia.

THE NEWS

in Brief

Magic Mountain, in Southern California, has reportedly been sold to the Six Flags corporation.

The Ron Morris Circus played dates in Florida last month. It was wrongly listed in CR as the Gary Marchel Circus.

IN MEMORIAM

HARRIET KERR ("Babe" Snellen) a former circus performer died at Bethesda, Maryland in March 1979. She was the daughter of John H. (Happy Jack) Snellen, a key Barnum & Bailey and later, Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey staff member. Mrs. Kerr was a show girl on RBBB in the mid-1930's under the patronage of Mrs. Charles Ringling. She and Henry Ringling were childhood companions. Mrs. Kerr was later a model and Hollywood starlet. Survivors include her husband, Col. William A. Kerr, USMC (Ret.) and four children. The family makes their home in South Carolina.

EDWARD P. "Eddy" KUHN (64) died at Kansas City (Mo) following an operation. At age 21 he owned and managed Kuhn Bros. Circus and later used the Camel Bros. title. In 1951 he operated the Capt. Eddy Trained Wild Animal Circus. Kuhn presented a large mixed animal act on Rogier Bros. Circus in 1948 and was featured on Cristiani Bros. in 1958 and 1959. He later appeared with Carson & Barnes and the Kelly-Miller boat circus. After retiring as a performer/trainer he operated a number of kiddie rides that developed into a medium sized carnival called the K and K Show. He was a member of the Lions Club and an honorary member of the CMB, with a group named in his honor. Survivors include his wife, Charlene, son, Edward, Jr. and two daughters, Joyce and Jeanne.

Please Note:

Shows and acts traveling through the State of Georgia should be aware that a new permit is required for those traveling through the state.

For information and permits circus owners and animal owners should write to: Dept. of Natural Resources, Game and Fish Division, Special Permit Unit, 2150 Dawsonville Highway, Gainesville, Ga. 30501. The phone number is: 404-532-5302.

For A Biography Of
HARRY BLACKSTONE, SR. (1885-1965)

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who was on his magic show, worked theatres where he played, knew him, or remembers him or his show in any way.

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PEOPLE

BLACKIE MARTIN, a former circus trainmaster, is currently touring with Circus Genoa.

FRANCIS BRUNN, juggler, will be appearing at the Resorts International, at Atlantic City, N. J., during the coming summer season.

JOEY JORDAN will open with the Fantasy on Ice Show, which opens its season at St. Louis on June 6. He uses a flashy fire opening for his number, which is something new, using balancing, spinning, etc.

CAPTAIN DYNAMITE, the man who performs with dynamite, worked a date at Tinkerfield, Orlando, last month.

LOU FOLDS, former juggler, now builds ice sets and equipment from his "Folds Ice Skating" facilities in Orlando, Fla.

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Please restate any recent offers that may have been sent to his old address.

MAGIC

... by Pat Bissonette

Tom Ogden, magician, formerly with Circus Kirk in the 60's, is now working the school circuit. He appeared at the Minn. State University, St. Cloud, at the Atwood Center Ballroom on May 3rd. It was a good show of small sleight of hand tricks, single-O for an hour and a half.

Three quarters house of College kids with much audience participation kept them interested and responsive. Tom has become quite a standup comedian since I saw him perform a few years back in Circus Kirk.

He gave an instructional class on Stage Illusions after the show for interested students at \$3.00 each.

Tom says his first "Inspirational Magician" was Phil Chandler, now touring with Carson & Barnes.

Two magic shows are playing dates this month, with the shows produced by John Strong. One show is in the mid-west, while the other is playing dates in the Southern part of California.

The mid-west show features Max Hapner, magician and illusionist; Lennie Mazel, juggler and Miss Barbara, foot juggler. The unit is managed by Kim Dickson.

The west coast unit, whose dates followed those of the mid-west unit, features: Kim Dickson with magic and illusions; Lennie Mazel, juggler, with Sandy Strong serving as manager, while Bill Burger handles the front door.

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SPECIAL

Reid Bros. Circus, operated by John and Betty Reid as the Grand Circus Safari recently played Lewiston, Idaho, showing at the Bengal Field. Attendance here was SRO, with business showing an increase at various other stands, while the show has added to its route of Shrine shows.

The program featured: Lawrence Grant, tigers and lions; the Boovay Trio, bar act; Otto Berosini with ponies, camels, tiger riding horse; Elana Omar, one finger stand/head balancing; Harry Ross & Co., the circus clown; the Tata-Steele 5 elephants, presented by Barbara Tata.

The show owned concessions have an all new look with red and white backdrops. They are using lighted ring curbs, ring blankets, with special lighting for the program. Music is provided by an organ and drums.

Show Report

... by Clarence Hastings

On May 4th, CFA's from Ohio, Michigan and Penna. gathered at the Ramada Inn, in Toledo, Ohio, to honor Albert and Jeanette Rix. The occasion was the Raising of the Albert and Jeanette Rix Tent.

Jim Saunders, of Springfield, Ohio, presented the charter to Tom Henricks, president. Then after the breakfast meeting the group attended the Zenobia Shrine Circus at the Sports Arena, which was produced by Sam T. Polack. The show's ringmaster was Al Dawley (he made 12 costume changes to match costumes worn by the performers).

The program, with a band directed by Boom Boom Browning, featured: Albert and Jeanette Rix, bears; Frank & Estrelita, aerial perch; the Berans Duo, trapeze; the Szczepanski Troupe, rola bola; Clown Alley with Joe Sherman; The Elkins Sisters; single trapeze; The Vasquez Bros.; the Great Francarro; Clowns; The Navarro Troupe, unicycles; James

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Show Date

The Sesostris Shrine Circus at Lincoln, Nebr., was produced by the M & M Circus Internationale and was held Apr. 24-26, featuring the following program:

Holiday Hullabaloo, spec; Jorge Barreda, lions; Mr. Sensation, aerial; Poppino & Co., display with The Juggling Jewels and the Navarros; Ethel's Leaping Greyhounds; Gee Gee's ponies; display with Mlle. Bridget, Mafalda and the Carlos Duo; Clown with Old Mother Hubbard; Jo-Ann & Sunny, seal act; The Great Joselito; Intermission.

The second half featured: The Dolly Sisters; the James Zoppe Riders; Clowns; Gee Gee's Cossack elephants; Aerial Ballet with Miss Aerialetta; The Young Troupe; Clown Big Heads; The Flying Lanes.

The staff consisted of: Grace McIntosh and Charles Marine, producers; Jimmy Douglass, equestrian director/announcer; Boom Boom Browning, musical director; Manuel Navarro, prop boss; Carlos Obando, head rigger; Vernon Woerner, producing clown; with spec and lighting effects by Circus Creations.

Zoppe Riders; Intermission; Teddy & Theresa, hand balancing; Miss Mafalda, sword balance; Clowns; Davis & Lynn Rosaire, canine stagecoach parody; The Famous Dolly Sisters; Willy Lenz, chimps; Clowns; Sensational Knops, perch pole; Elephants presented by Lee Keener; The Great Hortobgyis Troupe, acrobats; The Flying Vasquez Troupe.

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Elephant Hunt

Early this month officials in New York called off an elephant hunt in Brooklyn after spending a fruitless day asking residents if they had seen an elephant.

"We can't afford the luxury of making a safari every day," said Marvin Bogner, a health department official.

Dr. Alan Beck, director of the department's bureau of animal affairs, said, "We have been unable to verify or substantiate information supplied to us, making it impossible to assist in finding the elephant."

But Bogner believes the elephant is still there. The bureau started their search after several people called to say they had seen an elephant in the Sunset Park section of Brooklyn.

The information, officials said was so sketchy that they weren't sure whether to look for an old or a young elephant. They aren't even sure if it was an African or Indian elephant.

Officials are guessing that the elusive elephant is one of twelve that arrived in this country from Africa earlier in the year.

Bogner said the hunt was necessary because "you just can't have an elephant sitting around your living room." When asked why not, he replied, "It's against the law in the city." Besides, he added, the city of Brooklyn might not be the best place for an elephant.

Members of the health department who went out to search for the elephant were met with wisecracks and disbelieving looks. They didn't find the thing funny at all, especially because of the comments by local citizens and fellow workers. Added to this have been the constant calls from the press.

This wasn't the first time city inspectors were sent out on an animal hunt. Two years ago they went after a man who was keeping pigs in his front yard.

An Arrest

Baring more than your soul for the Lord can lead to prosecution, at least that is what Rosa Sofia "Kellie" Everts, a New York stripper found out early this month in Toronto. She was arrested and charged with staging an immoral theatrical performance and committing an indecent act.

The 28 year old Everts, who bills herself as "the girl who strips for the heavens" was arrested by morality squad officers after a performance at Toronto's Metro Theatre.

Police watched the slim brunette uncover all before an appreciative, but not noticeably pious, audience, then they went back stage and arrested her.

"I've got my religious books right here," she said. "I don't mind persecution because as a true Christian I'm privileged to be in Christ's company by going through what he went through."

However, despite the advance billing and an unconfirmed report she was an ordained minister, Everts' performance had no religious content, a police spokesman said.

PEOPLE

MAX BOLTHARA, of the Ringling Red Unit, is on the Moscow Circus during the Red Unit's engagement in Madison Square Garden.

BOB GRAY is handling concessions with the Moscow Circus, while CARL JOHNSON has the floss and ice cream in Houston's Summit.

Once pet alligators were discovered in metal tubs in the living room of a Brooklyn home. At the moment inspectors are also looking for some llamas that supposedly escaped from the zoo.

Tag-Sale Bargains

The "tag sale", a suburban institution, took on a new dimension on April 28th when it was used at Brewster, N. Y., by Sotheby Parke Bernet to dispose of the contents of Morningthorpe Manor, a Tudor mansion modeled after an ancestral castle in England.

More than 2,000 would-be purchasers, some of them local residents long curious about the interior of the "Castle on Turk Hill," began lining up the afternoon before the sale, to be the first inside. Those arriving early on the day of the sale, when the huge gates were opened, were told they'd have a wait of up to six hours. Some left, others continued to arrive.

Dealers, some of whom slept in their cars, purchased more than \$15,000 worth of furniture, and many non-dealers also found good buys. One such buyer, Elisa Folchetti, got two Oriental rugs for \$150 and was immediately offered twice that amount by another woman.

There were splendid furnishings and rare objects worthy of auction but "tagged" at prices that reached thousands of dollars. There were also bundles of Depression-era magazines at \$1, turn-of-the-century clothing priced at \$5, cartons of pots and pans marked \$10 and many sets of china ranging in price from \$50 to \$400.

"I really don't know what Mrs. Howe did with all those dishes," said David Redden, assistant director of PB Eighty-Four, a division of Sotheby. The Madison Avenue auction house has found it profitable

to "tag" an entire house, if the contents are worth at least \$20,000, rather than take only the best pieces for auction in Manhattan.

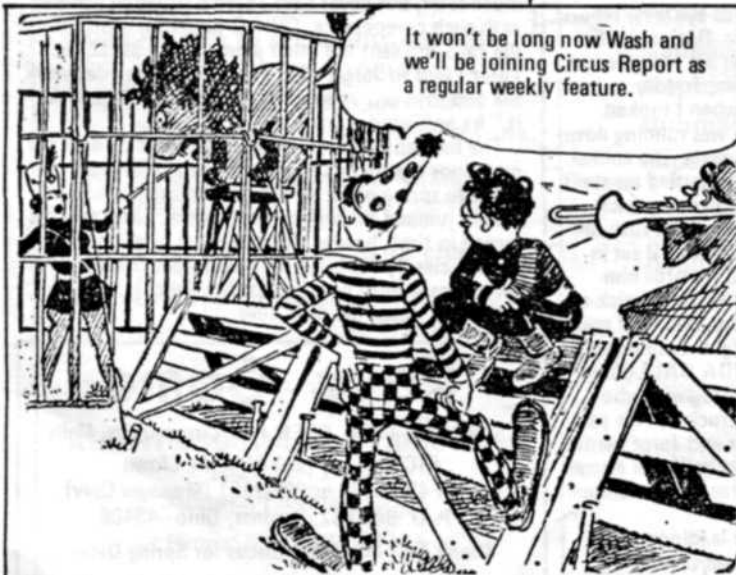
The china he saw moving out with new owners belonged to Augusta Root Howes, who died last December at the age of 91, a virtual recluse. Her long-time companion, 70-year-old Mary Irish, who represented the third generation of service to the Howe family, was too saddened to attend the sale, according to George Ballard, the part-time caretaker. He said she had stayed in South Carolina in another of the family homes.

The turreted stone mansion was built by Seth B. Howes, a circus impresario, in the late 1800's and is up for sale with other buildings on the 92 acre estate. The castle has Mr. Howes' initials elegantly carved on three panels over the main door, diagonally opposite the coat of arms established for the family by Henry VIII.

These features were hardly noticed in the feverish crush of buyers, who had parked as far as a mile away, climbed a long hill and then waited for hours to get in. Some were delighted, others disgusted.

William K. Denton, a former president and chairman of the board of the Manhattan Savings Bank, made a purchase but was not pleased with the atmosphere. Mr. Denton, who is 80 years old and a resident of Southbury, Conn., now runs the Old Timers Clock Shop in Woodbridge. He purchased a century-old German box clock, but said "it's the last time I'll do this."

(Continued on Page 17)



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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

be performing his new break away sway pole act this fall, has built a rigging to fit into the smaller buildings where most sway pole acts can't perform. . . Returning from a dinner party at JOE SHARP's (of A. C. Nelsen) Jorge and Joselito Barraza ran out of gas 16 miles from Omaha. With them were Luis Munoz, Manuel and Raquel Navarro. They finally stopped a man who took a five gallon gas can and had it filled. When the gas was poured in, the truck wouldn't start. They talked the man into towing them back to the building where they arrived, cold and tired, at 5 a.m. and had to face a 10:30 morning show! . . . MANUEL NAVARRO flew to Copenhagen May 17th, thence to London, on business. He returns end of this month. . . BOOM BOOM BROWNING, who's in the drum business, sold 12 sets of drums over the phone one day during the Omaha date. . . DONNI STAMBAUGH, because of a mild heart condition, was forced to give up a season with the Great American, is playing malls and flea markets in the Philly area instead.

LION COUNTRY SAFARI (A birds-eye view report) It was the closing matinee in Omaha. During the fire hurdles in JORGE BARREDA's lion act I climbed to the top of my rigging in the dark, preparatory to follow the cage act. I had just settled when I looked down and did a double take. A lion was running down the front track with Jorge in hot pursuit. The animal circled under my rigging, passing my startled assistant (still holding the ladder), brushed against my back guy-line, then headed through an open door into the encircling corridor where VERN WOERNER sat in stunned incredulity as a lion ambled towards him face-to-face. Suddenly Jorge appeared (in the nick of time, too), cautioned Vern to remain quiet, and managed to veer the animal off to the right. Coming up the hall was an unsuspecting BRENDA GALLOWAY (she and Carlos followed me in the program) who turned pale as the lion roared and struck out his paw. Brenda ducked behind a stone pillar and Jorge herded the animal into a corner to hold it at bay until a cage was brought up. Within minutes Jorge had the animal in its cage and the crisis was over.

Meanwhile, in the arena, all doors leading to the corridor were closed and the show was continuing. Great credit is due ringmaster JIMMY DOUGLASS

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PEOPLE

JEFF CHALMERS, RENE DORSEY, ROCKY Le BLANC and MATT WILSHIRE head up the advance crew for Circus Genoa, doing paper posting and arranging concerts by the circus band and brief shows for local schools, plus other promotional programs.

who kept his head and ordered those doors sealed off, then announced my act immediately since I was already in the air and ready to work. Halfway thru my routine, Jimmy broke in to announce the animal had been captured - to a heavy burst of applause. The incident was over so quickly shock didn't set in until much later, but never have I seen a situation handled with such competence. CHINO (Joselito) went into the cage and sent the other animals into the chute. Later I said to Jorge: "We now know Chino can work the cats, but can you do the high wire?" "I can fake it," he answered grinning.

The incident occurred when Jorge failed to slam the cage door tightly and the movements of the cats caused it to spring open. As the one cat came round he simply jumped through the open door. Jorge saw the escape in time, headed the other cats past, leaped out and efficiently captured his errant lion. (Needless to say the cage door now has a safety catch).

See you down the road, luvs.

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Thank You M&M Int. Circus for Spring Dates



BYRON JONSON, a unicyclist in Southern California, has been keeping busy supplying motorists on the Pacific Coast Highway near Malibu (Calif) with gas after they run out. He delivers a 5 gallon can of gas to motorists anywhere within the area, peddling along on his unicycle.

DONALD A. NAPIER, director of the Syracuse, N. Y. War Memorial Building, stepped into the arena with Struppi Hanneford's tigers when the Shrine circus was playing there to be photographed with the big cats.

IRWIN KIRBY, former editor with AB magazine, has been named Secretary for the Miami Showman's Club in that city.

Miscellaneous

The police sponsored a variety show at Muskegon, Mich. on May 12th.

TAG SALE (Continued)

"I've been standing in line since 3 a.m." he said, "That's ridiculous." He looked at two men conferring with another. "There's syndicate here. They put stickers on everything and then get together and have their own auction."

Much of the antique furniture was, in fact, marked "Sold'to Strong," a name used by several dealers who eventually got a PB Eighty-Four employee to accompany them through the vast home, adding up the purchases.

Although some of the best items had been removed for inclusion in forthcoming auctions downtown, the tag sale was a feast for buyers. They might clutch a piece of 19th century porcelain as they peered at other labels, or assign someone to watch over a carved mahogany Chippendale-style chair while they dashed upstairs to search through racks of Mrs. Howes' size 18 dresses.

"This is our third tag sale," Mr. Redden said, "and the biggest so far." Eighty percent of the 1,200 items had been sold by 1 p.m. and prices were being reduced on an everything must go basis. Mr. Redden said the total would probably exceed \$70,000.

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C-J WOWS S. F. (Continued)

Clowns; Rueben, foot juggler; The Bickmores, risley; George, foot juggler; Aerial Display with 10 girls and Mogalla, Ann Pike and Billy Barton; The Flying Cortez; Clowns; The Galambos, rolling globes; The Portugals, perch; The Wolsky Family, comedy; Karl and Sheila Winn, aerial motorcycle; Tina's Dogs; Angela Wilnow's Collies; Eduardo's Gypsy Bears; Clowns; Bill Golden, elephants; The Olmeda's Spanish Horse Fantasy; The Star Dusters; high sway pole act.

The show's staff included: Mike Pike, musical director; Scott Emerson, drums; Larry Rich, ringmaster; Bill Golden, animal supt.; Frank Galambos, supt.; Betty Carden, book keeper; Richard Cerbin, electrician; Andy Stieb, transportation; Belinda Risoli, wardrobe; Doris Galambos, spec coordinator; Fritz Lauber, concessions, and of course Larry Carden, show producer.

Clown Alley for San Francisco consisted of Bob-O; David Harrington; Jim C. Jayes; Patrick Hatfield; Bob Hogland and Richard Ballou. They did a variety of come-in features, plus The Doctor; The Convicts, and the Belly Dancer with her Camel Herders.

Visitors seen at the Cow Palace were: Tommy Bentley, Chuck Clancy, Jim Parker, Bobby Moore, Sid and Lovie Kellner, Pogo the clown, Simone Finner, and Anita Keppo Desimini.

PEOPLE

PENN JILLETTE is the M.C. and juggler, while WIER CHRISMER does magic in a revue at the Phoenix Theatre in San Francisco.

AL SCHWARTZ, of the Ringling Blue Unit, has joined the Moscow Circus, replacing RALPH "Cowboy" SCHAPPACHER who left the show at Oklahoma City. Al's job is to move the show for the rest of the season.

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Mid West Show

Spring brought sunshine and beautiful weather to Kansas and it also brought an added plus with Noel Bros. Circus playing at Derby and Augusta with additional dates in the area.

The show was sponsored by local police fraternal groups in the communities and played to full houses. Its two hour program was a fast-paced and polished thing. The show offers a pleasing appearance with freshly painted props and good wardrobe for all acts.

The Derby show included a clown warm-up with Yo Yo the Clown; the national anthem; circus overture; Noel's dog and pony revue; Wally Eastwood, juggler; clowns with dog; Cowboy Frank and Evelyn, whips and sharpshooting; Balloons; Rob St. John & Co., illusions; The Eastwoods, gorilla parody.

In the second half were Frank Noel with Sammy, the chimp; clowns with Rocket to the Moon; Dolly, high diving dog; Rob St. John & Co., magic; Yo Yo and Miss Marla, plate spinning; Chona Eastwood, balancing trapeze; Frank Noel with Cocoa, llama; (featured hind leg walk); and Grand Finale.

The Augusta date was identical, but the Eastwoods had by then left to join Carson & Barnes. Their places in Augusta were taken by a tumbling and acrobatic troupe.

The show's staff includes: Frank Noel, producer and manager; Henry Harvey, a Wichita children's TV personality, announcer; Dallas Hammond, organist; Gary Noel, as Yo Yo the clown; Evelyn Noel, publicity and wardrobe. Other clowns were: Rex Noel, R. J. Noel and Robert Young.

Show Report

M & M Internationale . . . by Ron Sanford

The program presented by the M & M Circus when it played Lincoln, Nebr (Apr. 24-29) featured:

Disco Spec Holiday Hullabulu; Jorge Barreda, wild animals; Mr. Sensation, aerialist; The Juggling Jewels; The Navarro Family, unicycles; Poppinot & Co comedy wire; Ethel's Leaping Greyhounds; Miss Gee Gee's liberty ponies; Clowns and Big Bug; Jo Ann & Sunny, seal; Great Joselito, high wire; Dolly Sisters, cradle act; Aerial display featuring Miss Aerialetta; Gee Gee's Cossack Elephants; James Zoppe Riders; The Young Troupe, teeterboard; The Flying Lanes.

The circus was produced by Grace McIntosh and Charles Marine. Jimmy Douglass was equestrian director/announcer; Wm. (Boom Boom) Browning was musical director; Manuel Navarro, prop boss; Esther and Ruth, aerial directors; Circus Creations, wardrobe; Vern Woerner, producing clown.

SHOW DATES

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W. Va.

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May 21-22 Chicago, Ill
25-28 Wisc. Dells
Wisc

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May 26-27 Oakland,
Calif

Liberace
May 22-27 Vancouver
Wash

Mr. Western America
May 26 Oakland, Cal.

Nerveless Nocks
May 25-Sept. 15
Lake Dalton, Wisc

The Sikorskys
May 25-27 New Castle
Dela

Zoppe Animal Acts
May 24-27 Inglewood
Calif

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26-28 Cherokee, Iowa
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